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FINANCIAL TIMES

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

D8523A

Tuesday June 23 1992

De Klerk flies in as ANC calls crisis meeting

South African president F.W. de Klerk announced yesterday he would cut short a visit to Spain and return in time to chair a cabinet meeting tomorrow which will address the country's political turmoil.

Mr de Klerk's move follows a decision by the African National Congress, which on Sunday cut off bilateral talks with the government, to convene an emergency national executive committee meeting today. Page 18 and Lex; Editorial Comment, Page 18; World stocks, Page 40

Maastricht votes: France will take a decisive stride towards ratifying the Maastricht treaty on European union today, when it completes the requisite revision of the French constitution in National Assembly and Senate votes. Page 18; UK Labour party faces internal splits on Maastricht. Page 8

Italian banks raise rates: Several Italian commercial banks raised their prime rate from 13.5 to 14 per cent in reaction to a series of increases in short-term money rates by the Bank of Italy last week. Page 18; Government bonds, Page 24; World stocks, Page 40

Uruguay Round: A political initiative by European leaders will be needed at the Lisbon summit this week if the Uruguay Round of world trade talks is to avoid collapse, negotiators in Brussels and Geneva said. Page 3

Bull boos rejected: The French government has refused an attempt by Bull chairman Francis Loriente to gain a second term as head of the loss-making state-owned computer maker. Page 19

Julie Ward assessment: Two Kenyan game rangers accused of murdering British tourist Julie Ward were not guilty and three other suspects should have been charged with her killing, according to three assessors in Nairobi High Court. Their findings are not binding on the judge, who will deliver verdict on Monday.

Chemical weapons ban: An international treaty outlawing chemical weapons is virtually certain to be completed this summer, after negotiations lasting more than 20 years. Page 4

New Spanish foreign minister: Javier Solana, 49, minister for education and science since 1988, is to replace Francisco Fernández Ordóñez as Spain's foreign minister. Page 2

Four in court over infected blood: Four public health officials went on trial in Paris, charged with allowing the distribution of HIV-infected blood. About 1,300 haemophiliacs were infected, including 250 who died. Page 2

Likud trials in Israeli opinion poll: The opposition Labour party is comfortably ahead of the ruling Likud, according to today's Israeli general election. Soldiers on active duty started voting yesterday. Page 4

Chipmaking link-ups: IBM, US computer maker, and Toshiba, Japanese electronics group, plan to join forces in developing a new generation of microchips - flash memory devices, a type of chip which could eventually replace hard disc memories in computers. Page 3

Murdoch has crisis: Fox Television president Stephen Chan has quit the Los Angeles based network, reportedly sacked by owner Rupert Murdoch for hiring a male model to strip at a company management conference. "Sometimes the hardest job a captain has is to terminate his best lieutenant," Murdoch is reported as saying. "But one thing this company has to stand for is that there are limits." Observer, Page 17

Total off: The French government has set a price of FF230 (US\$123) per share on the 12.4 per cent stake in oil company Total that it is selling to the public.

Nestle: Swiss food manufacturer, said it intended to pay HK\$1.5bn (US\$154m) for 51 per cent of the manufacturing assets in Hong Kong and southern China of Dairy Farm International, Hong Kong-based food retailer. Page 19

Time Warner said Batman Returns, sequel to the 1989 film, set a Hollywood record in its first weekend with gross box office receipts of \$44.6m.

Soccer: Denmark defeated the Netherlands 7-6 after a penalty shoot-out to qualify to play Germany in the final of the European championships.

STOCK MARKET INDICES

	FTSE 100	FTSE 100	FTSE 100
Vested	+4.80	+14.45	+14.45
FTSE Eurotrack 100	-146.77	+1.69	+1.69
FT-A All Share	+223.07	+1.24	+1.24
FT-A World Index	+1.04		
Nikkei	+55.65	+55.65	+55.65
New York	+15.92	+15.92	+15.92
Dow Jones Ind Ave	+1.55	+1.55	+1.55
S&P Composite	+0.54	+0.27	+0.27

IN US CLOSING RATES

	Federal Funds	3-10 Treas Bills YM	Long Bond	Yield
3-10 Treas Bills YM	3.12%	(3.74%)	(10.13%)	7.27%
Yield	5.27%			
Y	7.27%			
Y	7.27%			

IN LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank (same)

£/fr long gilt futures: Sep 97 £1 (Sep 97/2)

IN NORTH SEA OIL (Argus)

Brent 15-day (Aug) \$50.075 (21.05)

IN Gold

New York Comex (June) \$343.7 (342.4)

London \$342.88 (341.55)

Tokyo close \$127.47

London \$129.20

Austria Drt/200 Hungary Ft/1000 Malta Lira/1000 S. Arabia SRD/10

Belgium BPF/200 Iceland Kr/1000 Morocco Ft/1000 Spain Pte/200

Canada Cdn/200 Indonesia Rp/2000 Nigeria Nair/1000 Sweden Skr/14

Czech Kcs/200 Ireland Ndt/200 Norway Nkr/1000 Switzerland Fr/200

Denmark Dkr/100 Italy Ls/200 Oman Om/100 Thailand Dr/1000

Egypt Ekd/20 Jordan JD/100 Pakistan Rsds/1000 Thailand Dr/1000

Finland Ft/100 Korea Wns/2000 Philippines Pph/1000 Turkey Dr/1000

France Ft/200 Luxembourg Ust/2000 Ukraine Uah/1000

Greece Dr/200 Lira Lfr/200 Qatar Qr/1000

Third attempt to liberalise industry should lead to big cuts in fares EC to lift curbs on airlines

By David Gardner
in Luxembourg and
David Owen in London

AIRLINES WILL come under growing pressure to cut air fares within Europe after transport ministers last night agreed on a radical "open skies" programme which removes government restrictions on air travel within the community.

Under the agreement, airlines will be allowed to set air fares at whatever level they want from next year, injecting greater competition into the market as all EC member states wanted a longer transition period while the air transport liberals - the UK, Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark - wanted a

earlier, more modest, package, introduced in 1987 and 1990, failed to cut air fares. The European Commission hopes this "Third Aviation Package" will succeed where the others failed.

EC Transport Commissioner Karel Van Miert predicted last night: "This package should now make lower air fares."

Final agreement was delayed until last-minute differences over the pace of improving market access were sorted out. France and the southern EC member states wanted a longer transition period while the air transport liberals - the UK, Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark - wanted a

longer freedom rights will, for example, allow British Airways to compete on a route between two countries which begins in, say, Paris and ends in

faster move to a free market.

The freedom to set air tariffs will be limited by safeguards against "predatory pricing", by which large carriers take temporary losses through unrealistic price cuts designed to force out smaller competitors.

Market access will include, from next year, the right of EC-registered airlines to so-called "seventh freedom" and what are known as "consecutive cabotage" flights within the Community.

Seventh freedom rights will,

for example, allow British Airways to compete on a route between two countries which begins in, say, Paris and ends in

Berlin. At present they are obliged to start or end at a British airport.

"Consecutive cabotage" means BA could offer services within one country, for instance between Paris and Marseilles or Berlin and Frankfurt, provided the flight originated in the UK.

Ministers agreed on a transition period of four years and three months for untravelled cabotage - the right to fly any other member state's internal routes without conditions.

A final element in the third package sets common air licensing rules - governing technical fitness and capital adequacy -

intended to facilitate new airlines entering the industry. Current national licensing systems tend to reinforce national monopolies.

The Commission's highly contested proposals to loosen flag carriers' hold on landing and take-off slots at hub airports are being kept out of the package for later negotiation. Brussels wants all vacant or unused slots to be pooled, with at least half being made available to independent, low-cost carriers. The Commission is also keeping separate its suggestion that Brussels should negotiate access into the EC for foreign carriers.

Japanese stock market plunges

By Stefan Wagstyl and
Enako Terazono in Tokyo

JAPANESE shares plunged yesterday as investors lost faith in the government's willingness to act quickly to stimulate the country's flagging economy.

The Nikkei average of leading stocks fell 598.55 to 15,921.22, the first time it has finished below 16,000 since October 1986.

With the bear market plumbing new depths, stockbrokers yesterday were unable to forecast how much further stocks might fall. Mr Jason James, an analyst at James Capel, the UK-based securities company, said: "There are chances that the 15,000 level for the Nikkei will hold. But, on the other hand, there really isn't a reason why it should."

Mr Tatsuhiko Kusuzawa, a senior managing director at Yamashita Securities, one of the leading Japanese brokers, said: "The private sector cannot do anything. Everything now depends on what kind of fiscal and monetary boost the authorities can implement."

The government gave no clear indication of its plans, undermining the impression given last Friday that ruling Liberal Democratic party officials were forcing the cautious Ministry of Finance into advancing plans for increased government spending.

Mr Ichiro Miyazawa, the prime minister, said at a press conference marking the end of a session of the Diet that the economy was now the Japanese people's main concern. However, he made no specific commitments to take action to stimulate the economy.

Mr Tsutomu Hata, the finance minister, ruled out action to resuscitate the stock market through immediate measures, such as increases in public works spending.

However, behind the scenes LDP officials are lobbying with increasing intensity for an extra spending package of up to Yen 5,000bn (\$38.4bn) to Yen 6,000bn.

The stock market's fall below 16,000 has cut into the value of securities holdings of big financial institutions, including banks

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Foreign successes, Page 19
Government bonds, Page 24
World stock markets
Back page Section II

BMW to build US car plant in South Carolina

By Andrew Fisher in Frankfurt

BMW is poised to become the first German luxury carmaker to build a full-scale production plant in another country, with plans for a new site in the US state of South Carolina to be announced by the company today.

It will also be the only German car producer with a US plant, since Volkswagen closed its loss-making facility in Pennsylvania four years ago. Like other German companies, BMW has suffered in recent years from falling US sales because of the recession and the weakness of the dollar.

But BMW's US business has picked up sharply in 1992 as the economy there has begun to revive and it has introduced new models. In the first five months, BMW's sales in the US rose by 24 per cent to nearly 25,000 cars.

BMW said Mr Eberhard von Kuenheim, the chief executive, would announce the new plant at a press conference in Munich, though it gave no details. However, BMW's US subsidiary said it was holding a press conference in the Greenville/Spartanburg area of South Carolina where the new plant is expected to be built.

The company confirmed in April that it had looked at sites in the US. The US plant will probably cost around DM1bn (US\$70m), with output likely to start around 1995. South Carolina is believed to have assembled a package of incentives worth at least \$35m. This would include the purchase

of the land to be leased to BMW for its greenfield site and road improvements.

BMW, which expects a further profit rise this year after the 12.5 per cent increase in 1991 earnings to DM783m, is not the only German company to consider a plant in the US, although its plans are the most advanced. Audi, the up-market subsidiary of VW, has considered sites in the US, Canada and Mexico. VW now serves the US mainly from its modernized low-cost Mexican plant.

As well as recession in the US and the slide in the dollar's value since the mid-1980s, German car manufacturers have had to contend with a new luxury tax on products above \$30,000. Also, there has been a rising number of Japanese models made in US "transplant" sites. The Japanese are now competing in the luxury segment served by BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi, as well as in the volume car market.

Mr Ferdinand Piëch, the head of Audi who takes over as the VW group's chief executive next year, has said Audi has brought its US prices "near to the pain threshold" to compete with the Japanese there.

Although BMW has no full production plant outside Germany, it builds engines in Austria and sends parts for small-scale assembly in south-east Asia and South America. Like Mercedes, it has a plant in South Africa. This would include the purchase

of a wounded civilian is helped after the Serbian mortar attack on the centre of Sarajevo which killed eight people and injured at least 100

Iceland eyes power link with Europe

By Haig Simonian in Milan

THE DEEP and murky waters north of Scotland could be set for a new buzz if a feasibility study to transmit electricity underwater from Iceland to the UK turns into reality.

The National Power Company of Iceland has commissioned Pirelli Cables, the UK subsidiary of the Italian cables and tyres group, to look into the possibility of laying an undersea power link to Britain. The 1,000-kilometre cable would be almost five times longer than any existing underwater power link.

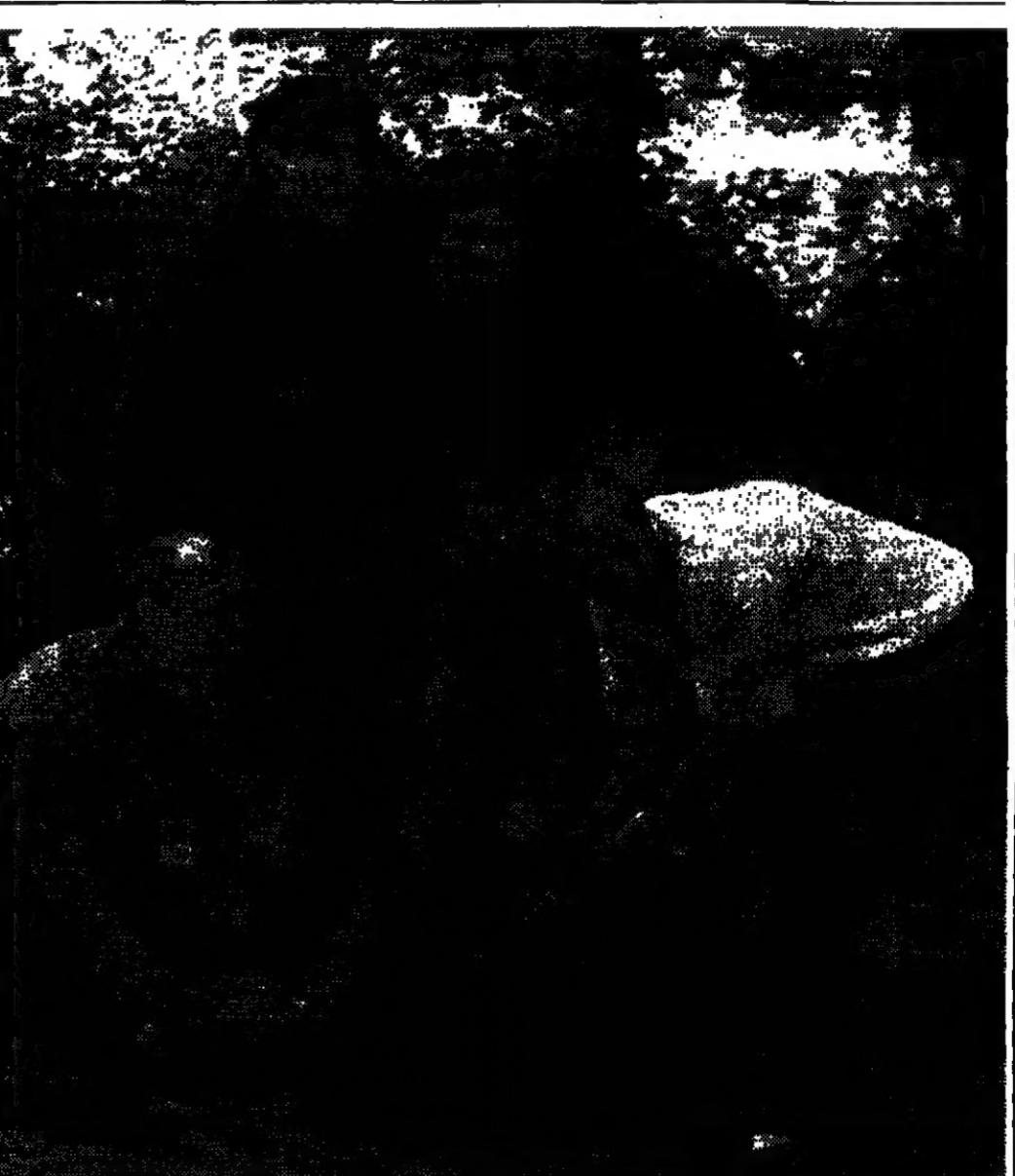
The UK, which already imports some electricity from France through cables beneath the Channel, is expected to have a surplus by next century as more generating capacity is developed.

But the UK could represent just the beach-head for a series of further cables taking Icelandic electricity to continental Europe.

With growing concern about nuclear waste and the environmental damage of many coal-burning power stations, hydroelectric energy generated from Iceland's prodigious mountains and streams could find a ready market in an increasingly "green" Europe.

Moreover, transmitting electricity over such a distance would also involve huge energy losses, making the scheme potentially uneconomic. "That is one of the things we will have to study," Pirelli said yesterday.

The scheme may have been given a boost by the end of the Cold war. The waters north of Scotland are plied by the submarine fleets of Nato and the former



NEWS: EUROPE

Russia caught in republics' conflict

By John Lloyd in Moscow
and Dmitri Volkov
In Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia

RUSSIA was yesterday dragged further into conflict with other former Soviet republics, as the violence round the edges of what had been a monolithic Soviet Union deepened and intensified.

Mr Mircea Snegur, the Moldovan president, said his parliament must "declare war" on Russia, which he accused of directing the 14th Russian Army, based in the Trans-Dniester breakaway "republic" within Moldova, against Moldovan forces.

Reports yesterday from the Transdniestrian city of Bender, which twice changed hands between Moldovan and Trans-Dniester forces over the weekend, said Transdniestrian guards still commanded the centre of the town.

However, the Interfax news agency reported last night that tanks and armoured vehicles were being moved up to Bender from Moldovan bases, and that MiG-29 fighter aircraft which had been handed over to the Moldovans when the Soviet military pulled out were being readied for bombing raids on the breakaway region.

Meanwhile, leaders of the South Ossetian region being besieged by the military forces of Georgia, of which it is a part, said their only salvation was in union with Russia.

Russia's parliamentarians view such a request sympathetically, but it would put Georgia in direct conflict with Russia.

The South Ossetian leaders, talking to journalists in Vladikavkaz, the Caucasus city which is the capital of North Ossetia - an autonomous republic within Russia - said all possibility of a compromise with Georgia was over.

Mr Alan Chachayev, deputy speaker of the South Ossetian parliament, said: "The only chance we see is to join with North Ossetia in the Russian Federation."

Mr Akhsaridze Galazov, the South Ossetian parliament's leader, said that if Russia did not defend his people, volunteers would be gathered in North Ossetia and sent down to fight the Georgians - "and who knows where that will end?"

At stake in these conflicts is the future allegiance of Russian, or pro-Russian, minorities in regions under attack by forces of the countries in which they live.

If Russia takes up arms in their defence - as both Mr Snegur and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, have accused it of doing already - it opens the door for a host of other such actions, from the Baltics to Central Asia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday confirmed General Alexander Rutskoi, the vice-president, as the man in charge of these conflict areas, an apparent sign of presidential approval of Gen Rutskoi's uncompromising defence of the Transdniestrians and South Ossetians at the weekend, and of his promise to assist them with Russian arms.

However, Gen Rutskoi's statements were roundly condemned by Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Snegur yesterday as a "declaration of war".

Spain names new foreign minister

MR Javier Solana was named as Spain's new foreign minister yesterday, taking over from Mr Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, who stepped down because of ill-health, Reuters reports from Madrid.

Mr Solana, 49, a former physics professor who is considered a close associate of the prime minister, Mr Felipe González, had been education and science minister since 1988.

He takes over foreign affairs only days before a European Community summit in Lisbon, amid uncertainty over plans for EC political and economic union in the wake of Denmark's rejection of the Maastricht treaty.

Spain is spearheading a drive by poorer EC nations for a large slice of EC funds to help bring their economies into line with those of their richer northern neighbours.

Mr Fernandez Ordóñez, who was foreign minister for seven years, cancelled all engagements at the beginning of this month and is receiving medical treatment at home.



Paris blockade threatened

A SPLINTER group of protesting French farmers, Coordination Rurale (CR), yesterday pledged to go ahead with its blockade of Paris from the early hours of this morning, despite government warnings, writes William Dawkins in Paris.

The group, formed late last year in protest against the growing moderation of the main farmers' unions, plans to set up around 20 tractor road blocks at strategic points

between 50km and 50km from the centre of the capital. They are angry at last month's European Community agreement to reform agriculture policy by cutting prices and compensating farmers with direct aid.

Mr Jacques Lelgmeau, the CR's president, said the road-blocks would stay until the farm reforms were withdrawn or until the organisation had ordered demonstrators to avoid violence.

The main farming union, the FNSEA, is also unhappy with EC reforms, but accepts that they cannot be abandoned and so prefers to negotiate.

The signs are that the disruption will be limited, since

the CR is in no mood to confront the police after a warning by Mr Paul Quilès, the interior minister, that the demonstration will not be permitted to impede traffic. Mr Raymond Girardi, a CR leader, said yesterday that the organisation had ordered demonstrators to avoid violence.

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Versailles relives old days

By Ian Davidson in Paris

TODAY'S joint sitting of the two French houses of parliament for the Maastricht vote, in the parliamentary chamber of the palace of Versailles, is a rare event under the Fifth Republic which is now only staged for the purpose of amending the constitution.

Since the Republic was founded in 1958, there have been only three previous parliamentary sessions in Versailles; but all of these so-called congresses were held to introduce technical reforms of the constitution, minor affairs compared with today's heavily loaded session.

In 1963 the congress adjusted the date of the annual sittings of parliament; in 1974 it allowed parliamentarians to appeal to the constitutional council; in 1976 it adjusted the

rules for a presidential election, to cover the death of a candidate during the campaign.

A much more important reform, to reduce the presidential term from seven to five years, was launched by President Pompidou in 1973.

But after it had passed the national assembly and the senate, he allowed it to lapse, because he did not think he could secure the necessary three-fifths majority in the congress.

By contrast, the most important constitutional reform of the Fifth Republic, the direct election to the presidency, was introduced by General de Gaulle in 1962 through a popular referendum.

In the late 19th century, however, the Palace of Versailles was for a brief period the regular seat of the French parlia-

ment. After the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, and the outbreak of the Paris Commune, the French government and parliament retreated to Versailles.

At first the parliament met in the Versailles opera house, but in 1875 they built a new assembly chamber in the Southern or Princes' wing of the palace.

After that the parliament met regularly there from 1875 until 1878, when it moved back to the Palais Bourbon in the centre of Paris.

But the Versailles chamber remained in use during the Third Republic for the parliamentary election of the president, and it continued to do so in the Fourth Republic after the Second World War for the election of Presidents Vincent Auriol (1947) and René Coty (1954).

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Moscow signals retreat on credits

By John Lloyd

MR Yegor Gaidar, the Russian prime minister, yesterday appeared to signal a further retreat by the government in the face of industrial pressure for credits to alleviate its vast debt problem.

Mr Gaidar, whose new title has not yet been confirmed by the parliament, was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying that Rbs300bn would be granted over six months to help enterprises cope with a Rbs2trillion debt.

This would appear to increase by Rbs300bn the Rbs200m aid promised just before the Congress of People's Deputies in April, but not yet disbursed. There are no details on the interest rates at which the credits would be offered, nor to whom.

Mr Gaidar was quoted as saying that "there is reason to believe that they (the credits) will not provoke hyperinflation or seriously worsen the financial situation".

However, the move fitted the recent drift of the government

away from radical reform to a much closer accommodation with the industrial lobby, on which it now relies for its support. The industrial lobby, in turn, is naming as its price more credits and controlled energy prices.

The move also comes as the International Monetary Fund team completes talks with government ministers and officials, with no sign of an accord on the government programme which would release the funds of \$24bn. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, said yesterday in Tokyo that if Russia insisted on looser conditions and quicker provision of aid, "neither we nor the IMF shall be able to prepare a full-fledged aid agreement".

"I do not see any sign of slipping back into recession," he said in a speech to the German-Greek chamber of com-

merce in Athens. But he expressed continuing concern over the rate of inflation, still "well over 4 per cent", and insisted that the time had not come for "an all-clear signal on the monetary policy front".

In Bonn, Mr Jürgen Möller

mann, the economics minister, also predicted a "gradual improvement" in growth prospects for the west German economy in the rest of the year. "The German economy is proving itself robust, in spite of the unstable international environment," Mr Möller said in a commentary on the monthly report of his ministry.

Growth of GNP in western Germany in the first quarter

reached a real 3.1 per cent compared with the same quarter of 1991, while gross domestic product - excluding the earnings of workers commuting from eastern Germany - was up by just 1.8 per cent.

The figures, or rather lack of figures, for the eastern German economy give a much less clear picture. Mr Möller admitted that there were big differences from sector to sector and region to region.

The only areas of clear growth in east Germany are the construction industry and some service sectors, while "in manufacturing industry the structural adjustment process is still in full swing," he said.

During his period as finance minister between 1986 and 1988, Mr Balladur pressed the

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The move was reported to

Brussels rules in baby nappies row

THE European Commission has stopped Fimaf of Italy and Procter & Gamble of the US from taking a dominant position in the lucrative EC market for baby nappies, writes Andrew Hill in Brussels.

The two companies will be allowed to create joint ventures in Portugal, Italy and Spain to exploit the market in sanitary protection products.

But at the insistence of the Commission, Fimaf has said it will withdraw its baby nappy activities from the deal and sell them. The bargain struck between Brussels and the two companies should finally end the Commission's long-running investigation, which began in November 1990.

Brussels cleared the deal last October on condition that

minor changes were made. That decision dismayed the two companies' EC competitors and consumer groups which complained to the Commission that the joint ventures would still give Procter & Gamble and Fimaf more than 50 per cent of the growing EC baby nappies market. Two months ago, the Commission announced it had changed its mind.

State plans to take over Serb economy

By Judy Dempsey in Belgrade

THE Serbian government will introduce measures aimed at bringing most sectors of the economy directly under state control if the United Nations-imposed sanctions last longer than a month, factory managers said yesterday.

The measures are part of a package designed to forestall any workers' unrest, particularly in the textile industry, the most successful export sector, which accounts for 12 per cent of Serbia's total GDP.

They were drawn up by Mr

Radovan Bošović, Serbia's prime minister, in the light of the growing concern among the textile industry that the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro three weeks ago will have a catastrophic effect on this sector of the economy.

The sector employs 200,000 people, or about a quarter of the total labour force,

explained Mr Gradimir Cvjetković, secretary of Serbia's textile association.

It is also the most successful

part of the Serbian economy.

Between 80 and 80 per cent

of the industry's total turnover is earmarked for the export market. The sector accounts for 20 per cent of Serbia's total trade."

About 60 per cent of the textile industry's turnover is exported to the European Community, the rest to the US, eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Last year, textile exports totalled \$1.1bn (150bn), and imports \$600m.

The sector accounts for 1 per cent of the world textile market, and holds a 3.5 per cent share of the EC's market.

"We are totally dependent on

the export market, and totally dependent on imports, ranging from dyes and chemicals, to material and tanning processes," said Mr Dragoslav Kojic, manager of Kluz, one of Serbia's most successful textile enterprises which exports 100 per cent of its turnover.

He said the sanctions were "a disaster" for his business.

"I want to send the finished goods to my partners in Germany. But how can I get around the sanctions? Sooner or later we will lose these markets in Europe. They will be snatched up by Czechoslovakia,

Hungary, or the Ukraine. It will be very difficult to regain them," he explained.

Mr Kojic employs 6,000 people, and has an annual turnover of DM100m (534.2m) a year. Later this month, he will put his work force on paid leave for a few weeks.

"After that, I run out of money, energy, and raw materials, which we import from the aircraft, while Mr Kohl was anxious not to offend Britain, Italy and Spain, the newspaper said.

Public opinion in Germany

remains overwhelmingly hostile to the Jäger-90, seen as a

French HIV blood trial opens

By William Dawkins in Paris

FOUR senior French public health officials went on trial yesterday facing charges of allowing the distribution of blood infected with HIV, as a result of which 256 haemophiliacs have died of AIDS during the past seven years.

The trial, expected to produce a judgment in October, was triggered by complaints from haemophiliacs and bereaved parents. It could embarrass the government, since the alleged offences took place in 1986, under the first Socialist administration.

Around 1,300 haemophiliacs,

including those who died from the mistake, were infected, nearly 45 per cent of all haemophiliacs in France. Mrs Georgia Dufoix, social affairs minister at the time - who has not been charged - has admitted to being "deeply responsible but not guilty".

This is the biggest recorded disaster in French medical history and has sparked off a complete reorganisation of blood distribution in France.

So far, the government and insurance companies have paid FF200m (230.3m) in compensation to victims, but this is only a small fraction of the total expected bill. The alleg-

edly contaminated blood was distributed by the CNTS national blood transfusion centre, which has a monopoly on blood supplies.

According to the prosecution, the four men allowed the blood to be distributed, knowing that it was infected and that it could have been made safe by a heat process already in use in the US, Britain and Germany.

A government report published last year

JUN 24 in 15P

NEWS: WORLD TRADE

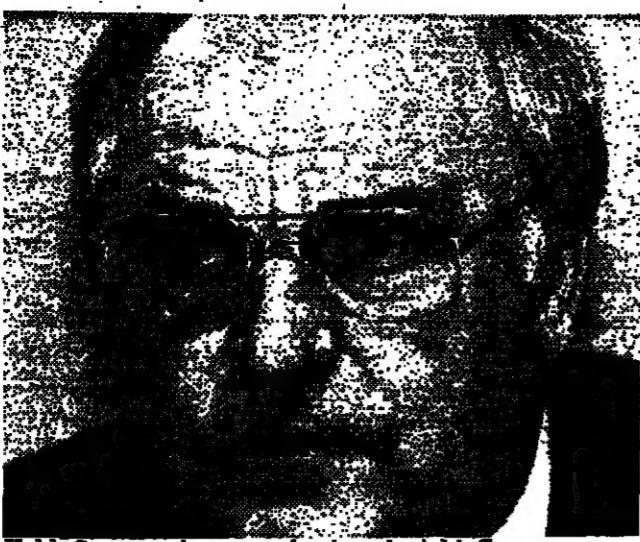
Lisbon summit 'crucial to Gatt'

By David Dodwell, World Trade Editor in London, and Frances Williams in Geneva

A POLITICAL initiative by EC leaders — most prominently German Chancellor Helmut Kohl — will be needed at the Lisbon summit later this week if the Uruguay Round of world trade talks is to avoid collapse, negotiators in Brussels and Geneva said yesterday.

The talks are "totally and utterly blocked", senior staff at the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), said over the weekend. This was due to a dispute between the EC and the US over reform of world trade in farm products. Pessimism about a settlement has prompted calls by some trade negotiators in Geneva for a ministerial meeting next month formally to bury or resurrect the Uruguay Round.

After last week's failure in Geneva to reinvigorate the stalled country-by-country negotiations on lowering tariff



Kohl: Germany is seen as having pivotal influence

barriers, some countries have apparently asked Mr Arthur Dunkel, director-general of Gatt, to call a ministerial meeting of the trade negotiations committee to decide on the future of the Round.

EC negotiators insist that no issues of substance now prevent a US-EC agreement on farm trade. "Things are no longer in the hands of negotiators," an EC official said. "It has become more of a political problem, and much will now depend on a *prise de conscience* from leaders of member states in Lisbon, given that the commission is fairly divided on the issue."

In a Lisbon agenda already thrown into disarray by con-

IBM, Toshiba in new-generation chip link-up

By Stefan Wagstyl in Tokyo

IBM, the US computer maker, and Toshiba, the Japanese electronics group, are planning to join forces in the development of a new generation of microchips.

According to electronics industry executives in Japan, the two companies are discussing a partnership in flash memory devices, a type of chip which could eventually replace hard disk memories inside computers.

Such a development could

greatly reduce the cost and weight of computers. Unlike existing memory chips, flash memory devices retain information even after the power to a machine has been switched off.

The two companies declined to comment on the discussions. IBM said it was talking to various potential partners about the possible joint development of various products, including flash memories.

Toshiba said it was discussing a possible partnership in flash memories with another

company and an announcement would be made "soon".

The partnership, if it goes ahead, would be an example of a growing trend among electronics groups to pool resources for the development, manufacture and even marketing of new products. Even for companies as large as IBM and Toshiba, the investments needed for new products have become so demanding that they are increasingly seeking to share risk.

Toshiba was among the first companies to develop flash

memories but Intel, the US microchip maker, was more successful in producing and marketing the devices and has a world market share estimated at 80 per cent. Intel earlier this year signed an agreement with Sharp, the Japanese electronics group, for Sharp to make chips for Intel.

For both Toshiba and IBM, an alliance would create a large enough base to challenge Intel. IBM was once reluctant to strike technology-sharing partnerships with outside companies, but competitive pres-

sures have forced it to seek such alliances to stay abreast of the latest developments in technology. IBM and Toshiba already co-operate in the production of colour liquid crystal display screens.

Meanwhile, Toshiba is today expected to announce a separate partnership with Apple, the US computer maker, in the field of multi-media, a business where computer, audio and television technologies are combined to create entertainment and business-use products.

Japan promises closer co-operation with EC

JAPAN yesterday pledged closer co-operation with the EC, in a wide-ranging review of its relations with Europe. Stefan Wagstyl reports from Tokyo. The review follows a similar paper published by the EC a month ago containing sharp criticism of Japanese trade practices, and prompting a protest from Tokyo.

The foreign affairs ministry has eschewed the chance to hit back in its own review. Mr Hisashi Owada, vice-minister for foreign affairs, is taking a conciliatory line. In response to EC demands for steps to improve foreign groups' access to Japanese markets, the

report said the requests should be dealt with under Gatt's Uruguay Round trade talks.

The paper welcomed European companies' efforts to enter Japanese markets and improve their competitiveness in high-technology industries. The reviews follow the EC-Japan declaration on bilateral issues signed by Mr Jacques Delors, EC president, and Mr Toshiki Kaifu, then Japan's prime minister.

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Japanese steel venture in Italy

By Haig Simonian in Milan

ILVA, Italy's state steel company, yesterday signed an accord with Nissin Steel of Japan to co-operate on products for car exhausts in what is believed to be the first direct investment by a Japanese steelmaker in Italy.

The deal, although relatively modest, comes at a crucial time for Ilva. The European Commission has taken an interest in recent capital increases and the possible cancellation plans for a stock market quotation by the company. Nissin Steel, Japan's sixth biggest steelmaker, is buying 10 per cent of Ilva's di

Terni, which operates at Ilva's Terni steelworks in central Italy. Ilva owns 75 per cent of the company, with the remainder held by Stal, a privately owned Italian steelmaker.

No value has been placed on the deal, as the precise figure is still being studied, Ilva says. Following the transaction, in the form of a rights issue reserved for Nissin Steel, the stakes of Ilva and Stal will fall to 67.5 per cent and 22.5 per cent respectively.

Tubificio di Terni was created three years ago in a restructuring at Terni and makes stainless steel pipes for car exhausts. Demand for such products is expected to rise

with the growing popularity of catalytic converters on new motor vehicles.

Nissin Steel, Japan's leading producer of stainless steel pipes for exhaust systems, will provide technical assistance for the next five years for the Terni facility, where a new high-frequency production line is to be installed next year.

Ilva has been looking for outside partners for a number of its operations, to ease its financial problems and meet commitments to the European Commission.

The group may also try to bring in a European steelmaker as partner in the Terni tubes venture.

Brazilian economy paces Mercosur's tariffs timetable

Stephen Fidler looks at prospects for a S American customs union

DOUTTS are surfacing about whether Mercosur, the proposed customs union which groups Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, can meet its ambitious targets.

Under the March 1991 Treaty of Asuncion, which created Mercosur, member countries began cutting tariffs last November as the first stage of a step-by-step reduction of all internal tariff barriers.

They are scheduled to disappear by the end of 1994, when a customs union should be in place with a common external tariff likely to be above 10 per cent. After that, negotiations are scheduled to start towards a common market.

The Argentine economy minister, Mr Domingo Cavallo, raised a furor last month when he voiced doubts about whether these targets could be met. The big question, he suggested, was the ability of Brazil to stabilize its economy.

Although the subsequent fuss forced the minister to backtrack on his statement, the state of the Brazilian economy is Mercosur's biggest problem. The Brazilian government's lack of success in bringing down inflation and stabilizing the economy suggests it will remain so for some time.

The concern is that an unstable Brazilian economy will be reflected in sharp fluctuations in exchange rates and therefore in the competitiveness of Brazilian industry. The impact of these swings on Brazil's trading partners will be amplified by the abolition of tariffs.

The concern of some Argentine businesses is heightened by their government's own exchange rate policy. Argentina has achieved a measure of economic stability by fixing its currency to the US dollar since April 1991. With Argentine retail price inflation running well above US levels, there are worries anyway about Argentine competitiveness.

The Brazilian government position is still that "the timetable is going to be fulfilled."

This is even though the potential advantages to the other members — Brazil's economy is well over five times the size of the other three combined — suggests Brazil's commitment to the customs accord may be weaker than the other governments. As one senior Argentine official said: "We have to concede that Mercosur is probably much more important to us than it is to Brazil."

However, Brazil's new foreign minister, Mr Celso Lafer, has said: "We think of Mercosur as a platform for our com-

petitive insertion into the world." Mercosur's importance, say senior officials, is as an instrument for transforming the economy and improving competitiveness.

Brazilian officials insist that the timetable for tariff reduction is already in place, and not for negotiation. They point out that a protocol on dispute settlement was adopted in December, and that 1992 priorities include practical issues such as hastening deregulation of transportation.

There are other difficulties, including fears that the impact of tariff reduction is yet to be understood and that Brazil's industry constitutes a threat to its neighbours.

The decision to aim for across-the-board tariff reduction, rather than a product-by-product approach, was aimed at weakening the influence of lobbies seeking protection for specific industries and at lending credibility to the liberalization policies.

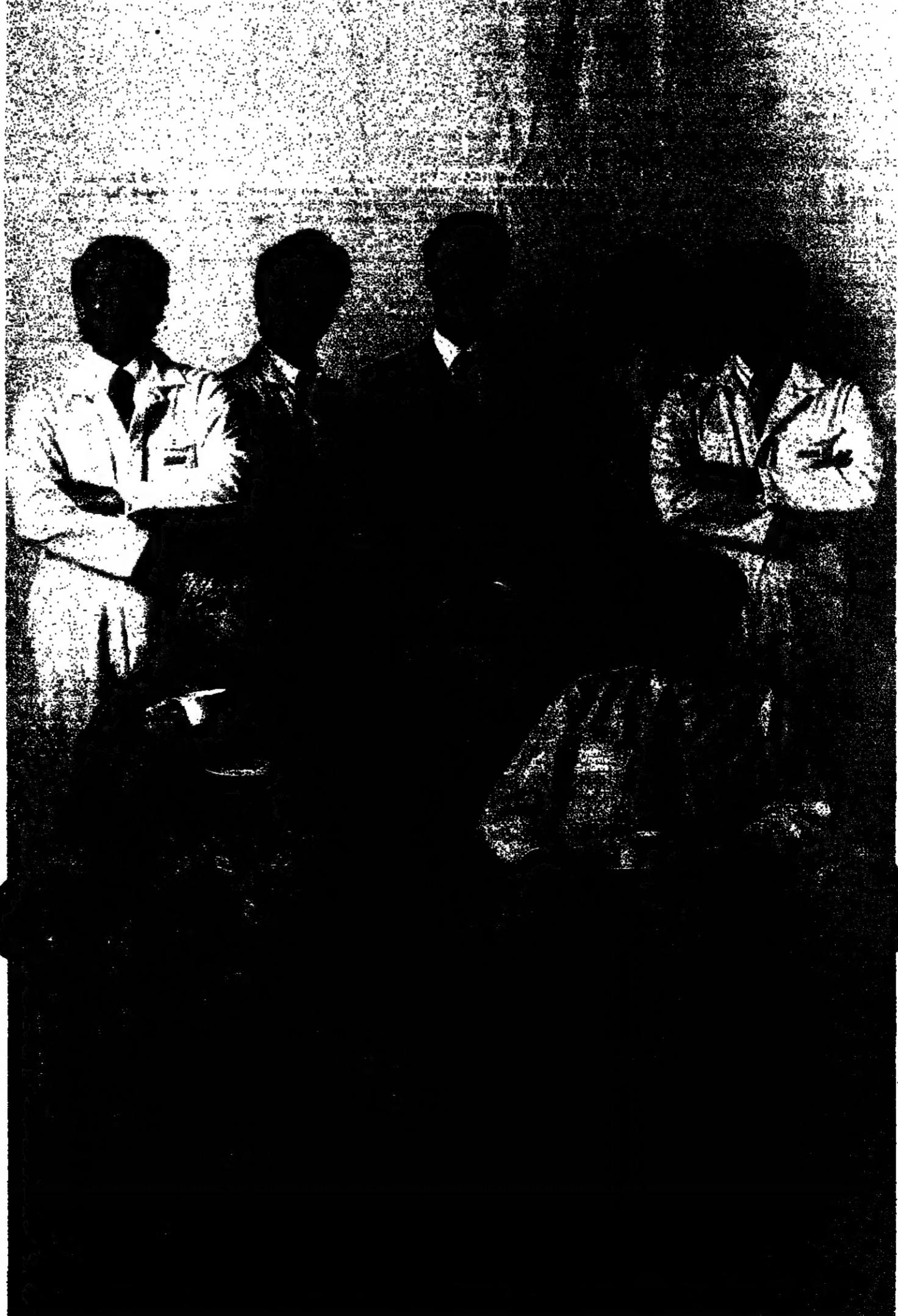
However, according to Mr Winston Frisch, professor of economics at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro: "Given the existing productivity differentials in some sectors, it is difficult to believe that the timetable will be met in full as programmed. The likely outcome will be a revision of the 1994 deadline to meet the structural adjustment problems of sensitive products to a more realistic time frame."

Mercosur has also decided to negotiate as a group with the US, with which it has a framework agreement as a first step towards a free trade accord. There are worries in Argentina that this means Brazil will slow the pace of the group's negotiations on an FTA with the US. Moreover, the expansion of the group to include Chile is likely to be delayed by Chilean worries about the effect of Brazilian economic instability.

With or without Mercosur, general reductions of tariff levels are already stimulating intra-regional trade. The potential for growth is significant: only 15 per cent of Brazil's trade is with the rest of Latin America, of which 9 per cent is with other Mercosur countries.

Brazilian officials expect trade between Brazil and Argentina to rise to \$4bn this year, up 30 per cent on 1991. Trade within the Mercosur region expanded from about \$1.5bn in 1985 to \$4.9bn in 1991. Brazilian exports to Mercosur countries totalled \$2.3bn in 1991, up 77 per cent on 1990.

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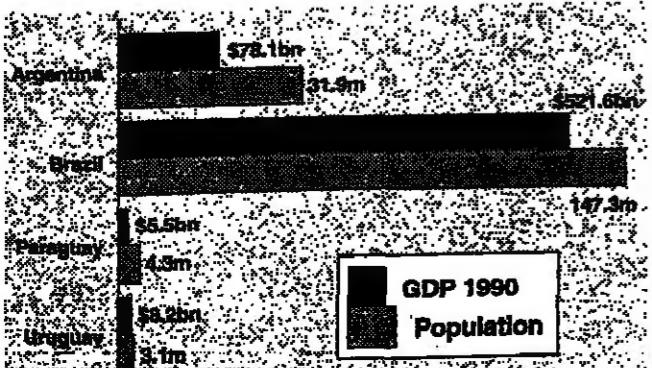
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NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

UN funds for Cambodia top expectations

By Steven Butler in Tokyo

THE United Nations Development Programme yesterday raised pledges worth \$380m (£247m) for the reconstruction of Cambodia, far exceeding expectations of \$300m, at a Tokyo conference attended by 38 nations, the European Community and 12 international organisations.

The success of the conference at raising funds, however, was overshadowed by continuing doubt about the future of the UN peace process in Cambodia, where the communist Khmer Rouge has refused to comply with the crucial second phase of a programme calling for disarming and demobilising troops on the ground.

The Khmer Rouge appeared isolated at the conference and was repeatedly criticised for obstructing implementation of the Paris Agreements, aimed at bringing peace to the country and which it signed last year. A meeting was under way late last night between the factions to the Cambodian conflict, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and representatives of France and Indonesia, which chaired the Paris meeting.

Mr Georges Kiejman, the junior French foreign affairs minister, said the meeting was aimed at convincing the Khmer Rouge there was no alternative to the peace plan.

An immediate formal reply from the Khmer Rouge was, however, not expected. It has refused to comply with the terms of the peace accord because it says Vietnamese

troops remain in the country. This was denied yesterday by Mr Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac).

The Khmer Rouge has also objected to the disbursement of some funds for essential services through the existing Phnom Penh government, on the grounds that this will strengthen the government in elections scheduled for next year. Mr Akashi said, however, that spending would be strictly controlled by Untac.

Delegates appeared determined to push the peace process through even if the Khmer Rouge continued to obstruct the agreement.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the US deputy secretary of state, told the conference: "The peace process can go forward in their absence."

The US threat was to halt disbursements to Khmer Rouge-controlled areas.

The way that money is spent has become a highly political issue because of its possible impact on the voting in elections scheduled for next spring.

The UN is aiming to repatriate 270,000 refugees before the election, and how they are settled could strongly influence the voting.

Japan was the biggest contributor, pledging between \$150m and \$200m, although some of this money had been previously pledged. The US was second largest contributor with \$135m, with France providing \$37m, the EC \$40.2m, and Britain \$30m.

But similar polls in previous

elections turned out to be wrong. A fourth poll yesterday, based on the widest sample, put the Labour lead at only two seats. Two of the polls also predicted Likud would be able to muster a narrow majority along with small right-wing and religious parties.

Likud has focused on Mr Rabin's tough image in its attempt to woo disaffected

Likud supporters, who are thought to make up a large portion of the 20 per cent undecided voters.

In its final television broadcast, the party ran clips from 1976 of Menachem Begin, the great Likud hero and then leader of the opposition, warmly praising Mr Rabin, then prime minister, for ordering the successful commando rescue of a hijacked airliner at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

A key to the result may lie in the 500,000 first-time voters more than half of whom are recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and in the 300,000 Arab voters.

To succeed, Labour needs to win heavily among the former, and either a big direct vote from Arabs or a strong result for the three Arab-based parties which would sup-

port a Labour-led government.

Altogether 25 parties are standing, encouraged to do so by the system of proportional representation in which there are no local constituencies and seats are distributed according to the proportion of national votes.

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Thailand's PM pledges fair election

By Victor Mallet in Bangkok

THAILAND'S interim prime minister, Mr Anand Panyarachun, promised yesterday that his government would ensure a clean and orderly election, while pro-military political parties made apparently hopeless last-minute efforts to avert a dissolution of parliament and the calling of a new poll.

Mr Anand said in a policy speech to parliament: "The government will maintain strict political neutrality without assisting or hurting any political parties or groups." Elections, which Mr Anand said would be "orderly, clean and fair to all", are expected in September.

Mr Anand was appointed caretaker prime minister by King Bhumibol to resolve a political deadlock. At least 30 pro-democracy demonstrators were shot dead by troops last month, forcing the resignation of Gen Suchinda Kraprayoon, the premier installed by the pro-military parties after elections in March.

Many people are still missing after the violence, arousing suspicions that they were killed and their bodies disposed of by the army.

Opponents of the military blame the outgoing coalition of pro-military parties for failing to restrain the troops during the violence, but politicians in the coalition are reluctant to relinquish power or to mount another expensive election campaign so soon after the last one.

Buying votes with cash is common in the rural areas of Thailand where the pro-military politicians hold sway, and members of parliament like to recoup their investment by participating in the lucrative and often corrupt business of government before spending any more money.

Some of the politicians loosely grouped in opposition to the coalition have also been known to buy votes.

Mr Anand - who ran the country as caretaker prime minister between the coup d'état in February 1991 and the March elections - said he would continue to promote free market economic policies, and would uphold civil rights and press freedom.

First of the eight 'elders'

Chinese revolutionary leader dies

By Yvonne Preston in Beijing

VETERAN Chinese leader Li Xiannan has died in Beijing at the age of 83. Li was president for a five-year term from 1983, and is the first of China's eight "revolutionary elders" to go "to meet Marx".

His death was announced yesterday by the official Xinhua news agency. He had been in poor health for some time. In March illness kept him from the annual meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a largely powerless body, of which he was chairman.

Li was one of the first Chinese leaders to appear on national television after the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in June 1989, to defend the army's handling of "the turmoil".

A self-taught economist who favoured central planning, he supported China's modernisation process after the chaos of the Cultural Revolution but became increasingly concerned about the economic liberalisation of the reformers.

Li championed a more orthodox Marxist

mould, identifying himself with the leftist economic policies of the post-Mao period which are now under official criticism. His death removes another obstacle to the reform process favoured by the most powerful revolutionary elder, Deng Xiaoping.

Born in 1909 to a peasant family in Hubei province, Li worked as a carpenter, joining the communist party at the age of 22. A veteran of the Long March, he became governor of his native province after the Communist victory, moving to Beijing where he became finance minister and a member of the politburo.

Of all China's senior politicians he was alone in weathering the political storms that have afflicted China since 1989, surviving even the Cultural Revolution as a supporter of Premier Zhou Enlai when almost all Zhou's colleagues were purged.

After that Li played an important role in arresting the Gang of Four in 1976, among them Mao's widow Jiang Qing.

In the largely ceremonial post of president, Li travelled the world, and in Beijing played host to national leaders, among them the Queen and Mr Ronald Reagan.

Algerian subsidy removal cuts import bill

By Francis Ghislain

A WEEKEND decision by Algeria to remove subsidies from all basic foodstuffs - with the exception of bread, semolina and milk, for which subsidies have been halved - is expected to save the country \$500m (£270m) worth of imports or a quarter of its total foreign food bill in a full year.

It will also comfort western

creditors, in particular Italy and Japan, which have encouraged leaders to refinance Algerian state or commercial bank debts as a gesture of support for reforms aimed at liberalising the country's economy.

The move will halve the cost of food subsidies, which would have amounted to AD\$2bn (£1.3bn) this year. The 7.4m poorest Algerians, out of a population of 25m, will be spared the worst, as a safety net, which by all accounts is working reasonably well, introduced welfare payments to them three months ago.

The liberalisation will end the large black market in commodities such as sugar, coffee and dairy products conducted with Morocco and Tunisia, where prices on such products have been much higher than in Algeria for years.

This year's savings are

expected to amount to around \$150m. Food imports account for a quarter of all Algerian imports.

The decision by the government of Mr Sid Ahmed Ghozali removes a big hurdle in discussions with the International Monetary Fund, with which Algeria is negotiating its third standby credit since 1988.

It will also comfort western

Iran seeks silken ties with its Central Asian neighbours

Emphasis placed on trade revival and extension of transport networks to gain regional influence, writes Tony Walker

WHEN President Hashemi Rafsanjani last month inaugurated work on a railway between Iran and neighbouring Turkmenistan, an enthusiastic Iranian press portrayed it as one more example of links being forged between Iran and its Central Asian neighbours.

Mr Rafsanjani reminded his audience in the north-eastern city of Mashhad that the railway would provide a link between landlocked Central Asia and the "open seas" through the southern border of Iran, also forming a "bridge" between Europe and Asia.

The Turkmenistan railway is not the only transport project used by Iran to capitalise on its proximity to the Central Asian republics. Tehran recently announced that it plans to spend \$2.5bn upgrading and extending a railway line from the Caspian Sea to the Gulf.

The main work left to be done is to extend an existing line from the town of Sari in northern Iran to the Caspian port of Freydar-Kenar. Both this port and Bandar Abbas on

the Gulf will have to be expanded significantly to cope with an estimated 5m to 8m tonnes of freight annually.

Iran clearly regards its ability to facilitate trade and from the newly-emerged states as a key card in the evolving competition for power and influence in the region.

Six former Soviet republics - Kirgizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan - plus Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, recently gathered for a summit in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, and, intriguingly, called for moves to re-open the Silk Road.

This ancient route, stretching some 6,400km from China through South and Central Asia, including what is now Iran to the Levant, was pioneered in the second century BC, and was one of the principal conduits for the transport of silk to the Roman empire.

Iranian behaviour regarding its neighbours has thus far been exemplary, diminishing initial fears that Iran would seek to export its own potent brand of Islamic fundamentalism to the unsettled Moslem states following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

in Afghanistan as indications of its desire to be seen as a positive force.

Iran is not going to play the Islamic card all that vigorously," said one official. "Iran is worried about the enormous power vacuum to its north, and it will not wish to further destabilise the situation.

What worries Iran is that ethnic conflict will filter down to Iran itself. About half Iran's population of 55m are ethnic minorities, including big concentrations of Kurds and Azeris in its northern regions.

In spite of the conventional view that Iran's intentions are fairly benign in the states to its north, it would be naive to believe that the country's theocratic leadership does not harbour ambitions to use religion as a means of enhancing Iran's regional influence.

"Given the role of the Islamic republic of Iran in the region, our responsibilities are manifold," Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, said recently.

"Iran shares the Islamic heritage with her neighbouring countries, and, in view of the recent urge for independence in Central Asia, it has to fill the existing cultural and economic vacuum in the region. Hence, all countries that seek Iran's assistance in these realms will be welcomed."

It is this sort of observation

and a challenging description by Mr Rafsanjani of the putative Economic Co-operation Organisation, grouping all the states of Central Asia plus Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, as "one great Moslem family".

250m strong, that troubles the west and the US in particular.

Iran's response to the collapse early in May of the conservative government in Farsi-speaking Tajikistan (Farsi is the language of Iran) was also hardly encouraging as far as western observers were concerned.

Tehran Radio hailed the triumph of the "Modest people" of Tajikistan who were now engaged most importantly in "removal" of their "Islamic, national identity."

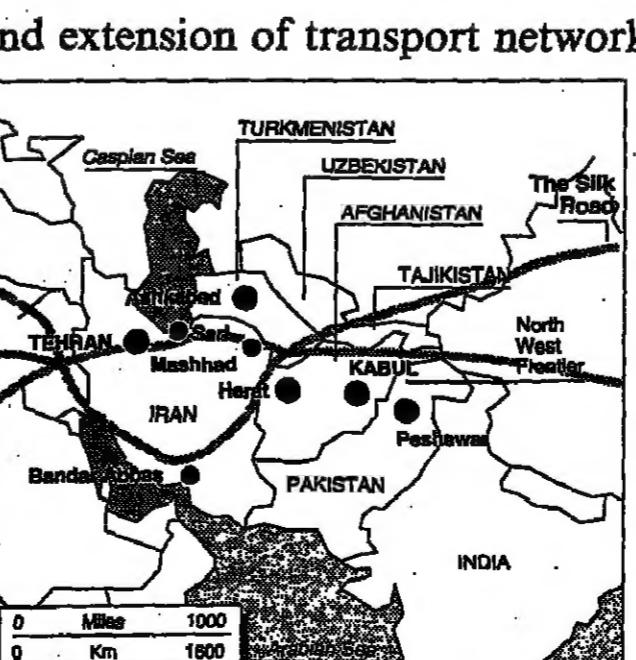
Mr William Taft, the US ambassador to Iran, observed recently that the situation in Central Asia was fragile, and it was therefore very important for the US to work closely with Turkey to ensure that the "Turkish model" prevails over the Iranian one.

Turkey, which has offered the Central Asian republics some \$1.2bn in credits, is fairly confident that it has the upper hand in the battle for hearts and minds. In this, Turkey is being aided by the fact that Turkish is the predominant language in the region and most people are Sunni Moslems, the less confrontational form of Islam practised in Turkey and in the Arab world.

But in a volatile situation no one can be sure how things will evolve, and Iran, although constrained by its own deep economic problems and the huge burden of post-war reconstruction, remains something of a wild card.

In Tehran, a Turkish official likened Central Asia to a laboratory. "We don't know what effect the various compounds will ultimately produce," he said.

"These people are going from communism to what? They have no real understanding of democracy. As far as Turkey is concerned we want to co-operate with Iran, rather than compete. These countries need so much help."



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Chemical weapons pact nears completion

By Frances Williams
in Geneva

AN INTERNATIONAL treaty outlawing chemical weapons looks virtually certain to be completed this summer, after negotiations lasting more than 20 years.

Mr Adolf von Wagner of Germany, current chairman of the ad hoc committee on chemical weapons of the United Nations Disarmament Conference, yesterday presented the committee with what he expects to be the final treaty draft. If all goes according to plan, the treaty will be endorsed by governments within the next seven weeks and approved by the UN General Assembly in New York this autumn before a signing ceremony in Paris early next year.

The chemical weapons convention, the most ambitious multilateral disarmament accord ever attempted, will ban the development, production, stockpiling and use of toxic arms and require the destruction of all stockpiles and production facilities within ten years of the treaty coming into force.

The chemical weapons ban will be policed by an international inspectorate, to be based in The Hague, with wide-ranging and intrusive powers to enter and search not only highly sensitive military installations, but also civilian chemical plants making chemicals for peaceful uses such as fertilisers that could be diverted for weapons production.

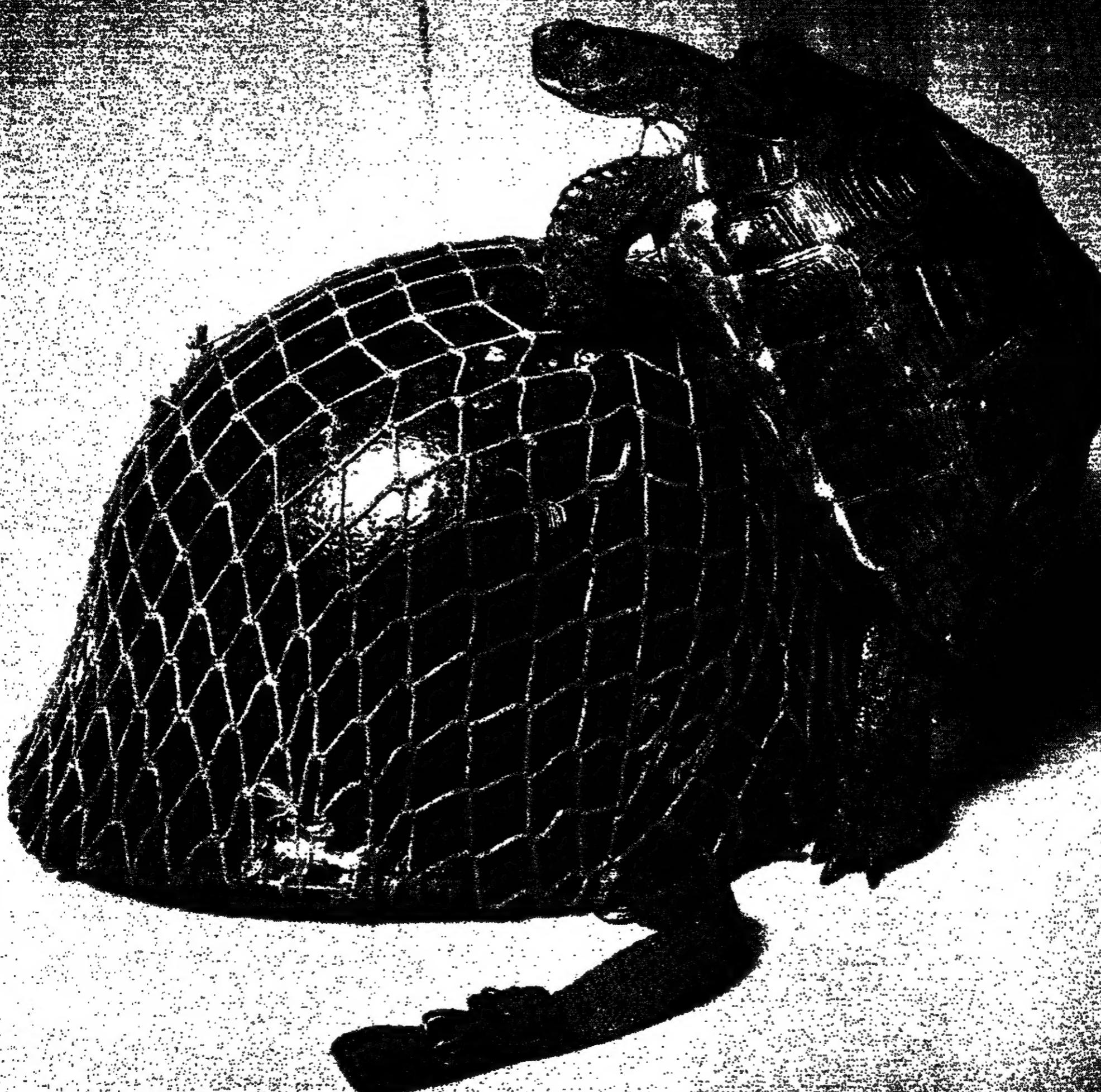
The negotiations in the 32-member disarmament conference have been slowed by the difficulties of balancing the need for rigorous checks to uncover and deter cheating with countries' desire to protect military and commercial secrets. The US last year backed off its own proposal in 1984 for inspections "anywhere, anywhere".

This followed objections from the Pentagon that open access would allow countries to snoop around military establishments developing, say, Stealth bomber technology on the pretext of looking for chemical weapons.

The provisions now allow countries to protect military or trade secrets through "managed access" which would, for instance, enable countries to shroud equipment, shut off computers or restrict individual inspectors to different parts of the site. Governments will not be able to refuse access altogether, however.

Some Third World countries, notably China and Pakistan, have been reluctant to allow any inspection of civilian facilities or undeclared military installations. However, they are not expected to block the proposed treaty, which requires a consensus of Disarmament Conference members.

About 50 countries, including all the members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), have said they will sign the treaty



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NEWS: AMERICA

Clinton stresses jobs in economic strategy

By George Graham
in Washington

GOVERNOR Bill Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday returned his campaign to policy specifics, in which he excels, with a reformulation of his economic programme.

Refining the policies he endorsed during the four-month Democratic primary campaign, Mr Clinton called for an economic strategy that would create jobs by investing \$50bn (\$22bn) a year in education and infrastructure, while cutting the federal budget deficit by half over four years.

Mr Clinton, the Arkansas governor, launched his programme at a meeting of the US Conference of Mayors in Houston. He emphasised proposals for "20bn a year of hard, federal dollars" to invest in transport and information technology infrastructure, as well as the creation of urban enterprise zones - a policy pressed by Mr Jack Kemp, secretary of housing and urban development.

Higher income tax rates for

ment in the Bush administration - and more community policing.

His programme also calls for "lifetime learning" with investment in education all the way from kindergarten to adult retraining, as well as healthcare reforms embracing the "play or pay" approach, by which employers would either have to provide health insurance for their employees or pay a levy into a state-run health insurance fund.

Mr Clinton still supports shifting the tax burden from middle-income families towards the wealthiest taxpayers, but he has weakened his proposal for a middle-class tax cut, which drew from his principal Democratic opponent, Mr Paul Tsongas, the charge of pandering for votes.

The Clinton programme would now allow middle-income families either a children's tax credit or a reduction in their income tax rate - but not both, as he had previously advocated.

Higher income tax rates for

the richest 2 per cent of the population, coupled with a surtax on millionaires, would raise \$17.5bn of additional revenue in 1993, the Clinton plan says, rising to \$23bn in 1996.

The other main sources of revenue in Mr Clinton's programme are additional cuts in defence spending totalling \$37.5bn over four years, and measures to tax foreign subsidiaries operating in the US more heavily by clamping down on their transfer pricing arrangements with their parent companies.

Mr Clinton estimates that this could raise an additional \$45bn over four years.

Mr Clinton projects a federal budget deficit still totalling \$141bn in 1996 if growth remains moderate, compared with an expected deficit of \$400bn this year - a more modest claim than that of Mr Ross Perot, the prospective independent candidate, who said he could eliminate the deficit "without breaking a sweat".

deposits of all foreign banks as part of a debt repayment moratorium.

Citibank's appeal had been backed by the administration, which argued that the appeal court decision would create "new and unforeseeable difficulties" for US banks "arising from the unpredictable actions of foreign governments".

Mr Kenneth Starr, solicitor general, said that US banks should be held liable in such cases only if the two parties had agreed in advance that the home office should bear responsibility.

'Gutsy governor' drops the gimmicks

Martin Dickson profiles the independent policies of Connecticut's Lowell Weicker

HE is being called the "gutsiest governor in America" and a precursor and political role model for Mr Ross Perot's independent bid for the US presidency.

Mr Lowell Weicker, the subject of these eulogies, is the governor of Connecticut, a small New England state not normally associated with the political cutting edge.

Yet Connecticut anticipated the nation's current distaste for mainstream party politics 1990 when it elected Mr Weicker on an independent ticket - making him one of only a handful of politicians this century to have won state governorships without major party backing.

Mr Weicker kept Connecticut at the forefront of political consciousness by a long battle with the Democrat-controlled legislature which eventually pushed through the state's first income tax.

Locally, the move was extremely unpopular. Connecticut, a state of leafy suburbs boasting one of the highest per capita incomes in the US, prided itself on being among the few remaining states without a tax on income.

Mr Weicker, accused of breaking election promises, was spat on, hung in effigy before a crowd of 40,000, and became the butt of bumper stickers demanding his impeachment.

Nationally, however, the tax tended to be viewed far more sympathetically: as a rare example of a politician prepared to put his neck on the block by taking tough, realistic action in a severe fiscal crisis.

Time Magazine labelled him the "gutsiest governor" while

he recently won an award - named after President John F. Kennedy - for political courage.

Such is Mr Weicker's national reputation that there have even been rumours he could emerge as Mr Perot's vice-presidential running mate. The Governor, however, insists there is absolutely no possibility of him quitting Connecticut this century to have won state governorships without major party backing.

Mr Weicker kept Connecticut

at the forefront of political consciousness by a long battle with the Democrat-controlled legislature which eventually pushed through the state's first income tax.

Locally, the move was extremely unpopular. Connecticut, a state of leafy suburbs boasting one of the highest per capita incomes in the US, prided itself on being among the few remaining states without a tax on income.

Mr Weicker, accused of breaking election promises, was spat on, hung in effigy before a crowd of 40,000, and became the butt of bumper stickers demanding his impeachment.

Nationally, however, the tax tended to be viewed far more sympathetically: as a rare example of a politician prepared to put his neck on the block by taking tough, realistic action in a severe fiscal crisis.

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Lowell Weicker: wary of privatisation initiatives

tends to be only managed to get the income tax bill into law because he was an outsider. Neither party was going to lay claim to being the father of the tax," he says.

But independent candidates offering sweeping change can also generate unrealistic expectations of painless problem-solving, as the row over the Connecticut tax demonstrated.

During the gubernatorial campaign Mr Weicker did not explicitly rule out an income tax, but he did say such a levy would be like "pouring gasoline on the fire" of recession, and promised no new taxes if the state produced no new fiscal surprises.

Defending himself against accusations of lying, he points out that by the time he took office, Connecticut faced a fiscal

alternatives which did not work. He was not prepared to go along with the "accounting gimmicks, smoke and mirrors, crooked Ouija boards and other apparatus of deception that had led to our fiscal crisis.

We resolved government would tell the truth to the people and attempt to fix the problems for the long term rather than for the next election."

The budget crisis has now eased following spending cuts and a shake-up of the civil service which removed 10 per cent of its jobs and amalgamated many services. Mr Weicker,

however, is wary of the privatisation initiatives being embraced by many other governors. "There's a lot to be said for some of it, but some of it is overblown."

His top concerns now

include reviving the inner cores of cities like Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, islands of minority deprivation in Connecticut's sea of affluence; and attracting business to an economy hit extremely hard by recession and US defence cuts. The state is putting together \$200m of its own funds, together with a \$1bn from the private sector, to ease a credit crunch.

As for the cities, Mr Weicker argues that one reason so many US initiatives fail is because they adopt a uniform "one size fits all" policy which fails to take account of the uniqueness of each urban area. He intends to pursue a case by case approach.

All this is improving Mr Weicker's local popularity. A recent poll in the Hartford Courant newspaper found that 41 per cent of the electorate thought his performance was good to excellent, up from 33 per cent.

The governor puts this down to the fact that "we faced up to reality. The state of Connecticut was exactly like the United States (after) 10 years of Reaganomics which said you can have it all and you don't have to pay for it. In essence, what the state of Connecticut - not just its government, but a group in the legislature, people in the street, said was: we know there's no such thing as a free lunch."

"Whatever the problem is, apply realistic answers, not political answers, and the policies will take care of itself."

Easy said, but the test of whether this benign view will only come this autumn, when Connecticut's somewhat nervous legislators face re-election.

Citibank appeal turned down

THE US Supreme Court yesterday refused to overturn a ruling that US banks can be held responsible for deposits in foreign branches, even when those deposits are frozen by a foreign government, writes George Graham.

The court refused to hear an appeal by Citibank, the New York banking group, against an *appeal court* ruling that it must repay with interest the outstanding balance from a \$2m (£1.1m) deposit made in Manila in 1983 by the Singapore branch of Wells Fargo Bank. The Philippines government subsequently froze the

deposits of all foreign banks as part of a debt repayment moratorium.

Citibank's appeal had been backed by the administration, which argued that the appeal court decision would create "new and unforeseeable difficulties" for US banks "arising from the unpredictable actions of foreign governments".

Mr Kenneth Starr, solicitor general, said that US banks should be held liable in such cases only if the two parties had agreed in advance that the home office should bear responsibility.

Arrests in Exxon kidnap case fail to clear mystery

By Alan Friedman
in New York

THE mystery over the abduction of Mr Sidney Reso, president of Exxon's international division, has deepened, despite the arrest last week of a former Exxon security guard and his wife in connection with the case.

A team of more than 30 federal, state and local law enforcement officials followed a trail across the US before charging the couple with the April 29 kidnapping.

Yet police still do not know where Mr Reso is or whether he is alive. The FBI is searching for a third suspect, on the assumption that at least one other person is holding Mr Reso.

Some light has been shed on the case by court documents filed in connection with the arrests in New Jersey early last Friday morning of Mr Arthur Seale and his wife Irene. Mr Seale, 45, worked on security matters for Exxon until 1987, having served previously as a policeman in a New Jersey town.

The court documents say Exxon received the first ransom demand from the Seales within a day of Mr Reso's disappearance, when his car was found abandoned at the bottom of the driveway to his New Jersey home. The kidnappers then requested that Exxon set up a cellular telephone so that future messages could be phoned in.

demanded millions of dollars of ransom, to be paid in used \$100 bills and placed in laundry bags.

By Thursday evening, after FBI agents had placed the Seales under surveillance, more phone calls gave instructions for the ransom. Nearly an hour after midnight on Friday, the Seales were arrested when they returned an Oldsmobile sedan to a car hire agency in New Jersey.

The police who arrested the couple found a 1988 directory of the home addresses of Exxon executives, along with rubber gloves and laundry bags.

The arrests mark the first break in the long-running case, but the FBI says the Seales, although questioned at the weekend, have refused to speak about Mr Reso's whereabouts.

The FBI has meanwhile confirmed that the Seales are the same people who sent a note in early May claiming to be members of an ecological extremist group called the Rainbow Warriors. But they doubt that the Seales have any ecological affiliation.

The Exxon case, according to Mr Joe Roselli of Kroll Associates, private investigators, "looks like a classic, almost textbook kidnapping, of the kind you normally see in South America".

For Exxon, which is declining to comment on any details, the case looks like a deepening nightmare.

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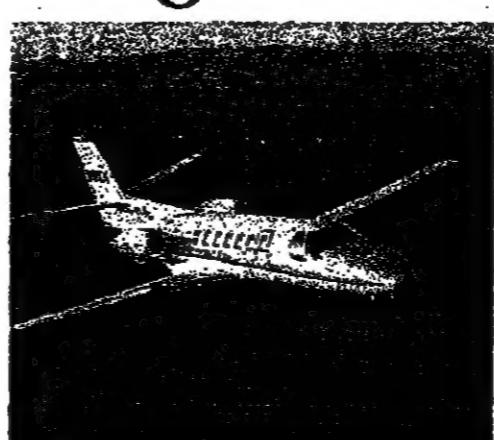
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"INDUSTRY INITIATIVES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION"

JUNE 30, 1992

This symposium will be held by the Financial Times and the Conservation Foundation, in partnership with Mazda Motor Corporation.

Guest speakers include David Maclean, UK environment minister, Professor David Bellamy and Lester R. Brown, the Worldwatch Institute.

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Trade deficit cut by record export figures

By Peter Norman,
Economics Correspondent

RECORD exports last month helped to cut £500m off Britain's visible trade deficit in May, bringing the gap between exports and imports to the lowest level so far this year.

But the news failed to help sterling, which closed at the bottom of the European exchange rate mechanism and practically unchanged against the D-mark and the dollar in London last night.

The Central Statistical Office reported that the UK's visible trade deficit fell to a seasonally adjusted £245m in May from £1.36bn in April following a 4 per cent jump in exports to £9.17bn last month and a 1.5 per cent drop in imports to £1.6bn.

It tentatively estimated that the UK's surplus from invisible trade such as banking, insurance and tourism was £200m in both May and April, implying a sharp fall in the current account deficit to £245m last month from £1.16bn in April.

However, the improvements in the trade and current account figures largely reflected an increase in oil

exports and a drop in imports of aircraft in May.

After stripping out such items, last month's trade performance was broadly in line with that in the nine months to the end of March. While exports last month were a record in terms of value and volume, imports also reached new high in May in volume terms.

The figures indicated a recent weakening of the UK's trade position with the rest of the European Community, its main trading partner. Exports increased by only 1 per cent to £15.3bn in the three months to the end of May from £15.1bn in the three months to the end of February. In the same period imports from the EC increased by 4 per cent to £16.4bn from £15.75bn.

The Treasury welcomed the trade figures, but Mr Gordon Brown, the Labour opposition's trade spokesman, said statistics for the past year showing imports rising faster than exports were a sign that "the much promised post-election recovery has simply not materialised".

Lex, Page 18

Mortgage arrears rise

By John Willman and
David Barchard

THE NUMBER of homeowners more than six months in arrears with their mortgage payments has risen sharply to 290,000, according to a survey published by Shelter, the housing pressure group.

The survey in the pressure group's magazine Roof shows that while the level of short-term mortgage debt fell in the year to the end of March, the number of cases over six months in arrears rose by 38 per cent.

Steps taken to reduce the number of repossessions by lenders are partly responsible for the growth in arrears over six months, according to Ms

Janet Ford of Warwick University, the researcher who compiled the survey.

Until these moves, lenders normally began repossession proceedings when arrears exceeded six months. Cases which avoid repossession will increasingly show up in the long-term arrears figures.

Overall, the figures show a slight decline in the number of cases of two months or more, which still affect one in 13 of the 5.8m outstanding loans for home purchase in the UK.

The survey says provision for bad debt rose rapidly in 1991, threatening the viability of some lenders. It is based on a sample of banks, insurance companies and the other centralised lenders.

Dockyards battle for Naval refit contracts

By James Buxton,
Scottish Correspondent

THE battle for survival between the UK's two naval dockyards took a fresh turn yesterday when Babcock Thorn, managers of Rosyth dockyard in Scotland, unveiled plans for a substantially cheaper facility for refitting Trident submarines than that proposed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Babcock Thorn, a joint venture between Babcock and Thorn EMI, also proposed that the two yards - Rosyth and Devonport, in south west England - be brought under a single management structure. They have been managed by private operators since 1987.

It proposes that the two yards each specialise, with Rosyth concentrating on submarines and Devonport on surface ships.

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The Crown Estate, which owns and purchases land and property on behalf of the Queen, has demanded an immediate suspension of crossings between Tilbury and Gravesend (pictured above), operated by White Horse Ferries. White Horse has decided to defy the order and continue services for the 250,000 passengers who use the crossing each year. It said it purchased rights to the crossing last year when it bought the route from Sealink-Stena, the ferry operator.

Crown Estates said that route licence was non-transferable and should not have been sold. "They don't have a

licences as far as we're concerned," a spokesman said. The Crown says White Horse has the right to carry passengers in one direction only, from Gravesend to Tilbury, but not back again. River licences from Tilbury are issued at the discretion of the sovereign, who inherited them in the 15th century.

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Ferry operator told to stop service or face Crown's displeasure

OPERATORS of one of the oldest ferry services in Europe have been told to cease services or face the Crown's displeasure, writes Tim Burt.

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OPERATORS of

Wellcome launches £1m Aids programme

By Clive Cookson,
Science Editor

WELLCOME, the UK pharmaceutical group, yesterday launched a charitable programme called Positive Action "to help meet the global challenge of HIV and Aids".

Start-up costs will be about \$1m, but Mr James Cochrane, European operations director, said the company's commitment was open-ended.

Sales of the company's best-selling Aids drug Retrovir (AZT) are expected to exceed \$200m this year.

Positive Action consists of four main initiatives:

- Support for Aids education and care in the community.
- Action to prevent HIV infection and care for Aids patients in developing countries.
- Improved services for children affected by Aids.
- Developing policies for the disease in the workplace.

Wherever possible Wellcome will join existing organisations to promote Positive Action. For example, its partner in the developing countries initiative is the Population Council, based in New York, which has experience of community-based health work in Africa. "We are firmly committed to a response to HIV and Aids which goes beyond producing effective medicines," said Mr Cochrane.

The company concedes that its critics, who have attacked the company for making excessive profits from Aids, might see Positive Action as a public relations initiative. One executive insisted: "To the cynics I would say: Wait and see. Maybe we will convince you over time."

The Terence Higgins Trust, a UK Aids support group, welcomed the initiative. Mr Nick Partridge, chief executive, said the announcement "will go a long way to reversing the very severe criticism Wellcome has come up against in the past".

The company said the announcement is unconnected with next month's Wellcome share offer, expected to raise £2bn for the Wellcome Trust.

Wellcome results, Page 19

Business travellers shift from air to road and rail in recession

By Daniel Green

MOST British companies are encouraging employees to travel by road and rail rather than air in response to the recession, says a report published yesterday.

The amount companies spent on rail travel rose by two-thirds to £2bn in 1991, compared with 1989. Spending on air travel fell 21 per cent to £4.5bn over the same period, according to an American Express report on travel and entertainment.

The fall in spending on air travel did not necessarily reflect a fall in passenger num-

bers. "People are also being encouraged to change to lower class seats," said Mr Jim Jamison, vice-president of travel management services at American Express.

The effect of recession was also seen in a 14 per cent fall in spending on hotels. This was partly compensated for by a rise in spending on fuel, perhaps indicating that staff were encouraged to drive home after a day in the field, rather than spend the night in a hotel.

The total amount spent on travel and entertainment fell from £20bn in 1989 to £18bn last year. Some 37 per cent was incurred on overseas trips.

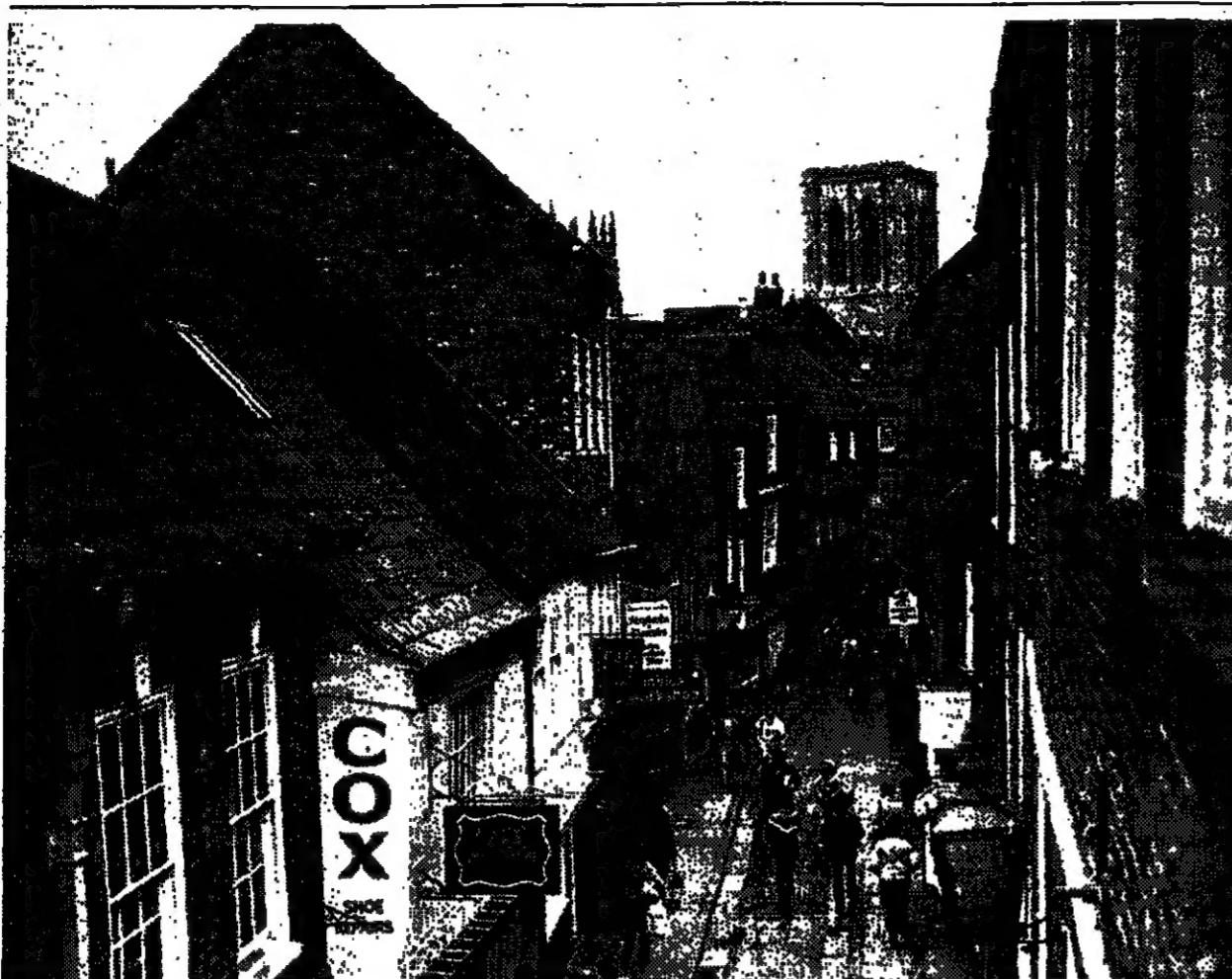
The report also said the number of women business

travellers had risen to 17 per cent of the total in 1991 from 11 per cent in 1989.

Mr Jamison said many hotels were now concentrating on providing more convenient facilities for women travellers as their numbers increased.

In spite of the sums spent almost half the 407 companies questioned did not have a written travel policy. Furthermore, of those questioned 44 per cent said they had no arrangements for securing corporate discounts.

Nevertheless almost one third said they were not yet satisfied with their efforts to control this travel spending.



The Shambles in York, built in the 13th century as a butchery centre, is set to lose its last butchers' shop. Dewsburys has earmarked its branch in the street for closure as part of a national programme to cut its outlets from 1,000 to 400. One of the best-preserved medieval streets in Europe, the Shambles - formerly the Fleahammeis, meaning meat counters - has 47 shops, most of which were once butchers. Dewsburys said: "The Shambles really is a tourist haunt now. It's not the ideal trading environment for a butchers."

Britain in brief

War of words breaks out at Lloyd's

A war of words has broken out between rival groups of Lloyd's Names, the individuals whose assets support underwriting at the insurance market.

First, one group of 110 Names requested an extraordinary general meeting in a bid to focus attention on the "disastrous state of Lloyd's regulation". The dissident Names are also calling for the council, the market's governing body, to be replaced and are pressing for a series of reforms to the market's regulation and governance.

Later in the day, 220 working Names - those who have jobs with agents and brokers on the market - presented a separate petition, reaffirming their confidence in the market's governing Council.

The move comes two days ahead of an annual general meeting on Wednesday when the market will announce losses of £2bn for the 1989 year, the biggest deficit ever recorded by the market. It follows the controversial rejection by Lloyd's last week of a bail-out plan to help the hard- hit Names pay their losses.

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behalf of the pensioners, has warned the government that it risked accusations of a "cover up" if it continued to allow attention to focus on what might remain secret in the report, rather than the role of the banks and others.

full-time education or training last year, compared with 70 per cent in 1989. For the first time in recent decades that puts England and Wales within reach of France and Germany, where the full-time staying-on rate is between 80 and 90 per cent - though many doubt the comparability of youth training, which accounted for 15 per cent of last year's school leavers, with continental training schemes.

Tribunals hear extra cases

The number of cases claiming equal pay for equal value being brought to industrial tribunals more than tripled last year compared with 1990, according to an analysis by Industrial Relations Services, the pay and conditions group.

Much of the increase was accounted for by about 600 cases brought by domestic staff against four Northern Ireland health boards claiming equal pay with porters. Almost 90 per cent of the applications involved just six employers.

State doctors on the beat

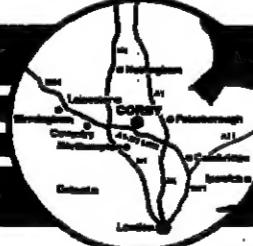
Doctors spend two or three hours a day walking around hospitals rather than treating patients, according to new research. A study of 10 state hospitals by Andersen Consulting, management consultants, showed that junior doctors walked six or seven miles during a typical shift.

Dr Nicholas Edwards, of Andersen Consulting, said: "Highly skilled hospital staff, like doctors and nurses, are having to spend time walking around hospitals rather than looking after patients."

New Jaguars take to the road

Deliveries are beginning this week of the fastest and, at £350,000 each, the most expensive road-going Jaguar cars ever built. The XJ220 cars have been engineered and are being produced by JaguarSport, a 50-50 joint venture company set up in 1988 between Jaguar - now owned by Ford - and Mr Tom Walkinshaw's racing organisation to develop high-performance Jaguar models.

1992 IS SPELT WITH AN AITCH



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COMPANY: _____
POSITION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TEL: _____

CORBY WORKS

A1



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It could be just the **CORPORATE JETS** sort of air mail you've been waiting for.

In a Nutshell

How to keep it all in the family

An exchange programme which allows the next generation of a family company to gain experience working in another family firm is one of the services to be provided by the Stoy Centre for Family Business, to be launched later this month.

The centre, which has been set up by accountants Stoy Hayward, is intended to generate ideas, stimulate discussion and disseminate knowledge about all aspects of the family business. Family-controlled firms account for 75 per cent of all UK companies, Stoy calculates.

Other services to be provided include a forum to lobby for the interests of family businesses; help in finding non-executive directors; a newsletter; joint meetings and conferences.

Membership of the centre is open to companies where more than 50 per cent of the shares are owned by one family; a single family group effectively controls the business; or a significant proportion of the senior management is drawn from the same family.

Contact Moira Lewis, Stoy Centre for Family Business, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA. Tel 071 466 5888. Annual subscription £110 plus VAT.

Lessons in Customs and practice

UK companies will in future take more responsibility for managing the Customs' regulations which apply to exports and imports.

Historically, Customs has provided exporters and importers with close assistance but in future, it will monitor companies' own systems.

Help for businesses with the implications of self-regulation and with the setting-up of control systems will be provided at a one-day seminar on July 2 to be run by accountants Grant Thornton, Customs and Excise and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Contact Grant Thornton. Tel 071 383 5100. Fee £175.50 inc VAT.

A small west London company, G Ettinger, has spent 60 years establishing a name for itself as a designer and manufacturer of high quality leather goods and fashion accessories.

Until a year ago, growth was steady rather than spectacular but it has since taken off on the back of a licensing agreement with the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, home of the Wimbledon championship. Ettinger's use of the Wimbledon logos - crossed tennis rackets and a stylised letter W, both in the club's distinctive purple and green colours - has given a significant boost to the company.

Sales of bags, belts and wallets with the Wimbledon logo are expected to account for up to £100,000 of Ettinger's £1.5m turnover this year, estimates Robert Ettinger, marketing director. The Wimbledon line is now on sale in two shops at the championship site, at upmarket outlets such as Harrods and in leather goods shops around the country. "We have opened up dozens of large new accounts," says Ettinger. "Having products with a famous name attached makes selling so much easier."

Ettinger acknowledges that although he initiated the link with Wimbledon, he was concerned that licensing would not be appropriate for a small company. He feared it would require enormous financial resources and an army of sales reps.

In fact, small firms may be better placed to win licensing deals than large companies, says Tony Gadsby Peet, vice-president in charge of licensing at International Management Group (IMG), which arranges sporting promotions. "Bigger companies tend to have a well-established reputation and most of their activity is designed to promote their own name," he comments.

A small company will pay more attention to detail and will devote more attention to a licence because it is worth more to it in terms of its overall business," adds Rob McCowen, marketing director for the All England Club.

The licensor will, however, be looking for a well-run small business which will not damage the "property" it wants to license. "We have to make sure the company is not so small that it is not financially viable," says McCowen. "It would depend on the product. If the company made clothing, you would expect a high level of sales and the company would have to make a significant investment."

"You want a company with an established reputation and established distribution networks," notes Gadsby Peet. There is no point licensing a brand name to a company which is too small to exploit the opportunity.

Eros Products, a north London company, established itself as a distributor of plastic housewares and children's lunchboxes and drinking flasks before signing up its first Disney licence in November 1988. "We had a customer base among the multiple stores; a broad range of products; and a good position in the low to medium price range," says Joseph Yeung, financial director. Eros now has no fewer than 15

licences from companies such as Disney, Mattel and Warner Brothers for "characters" including Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh, Postman Pat, Bertie and Batman. Character merchandising accounts for 85 per cent of turnover, projected to be £5m this year.

The company now has such a well-established position in the field of character merchandising that it can afford to turn away propositions

which do not meet its own requirements. It turned down approaches to license the Gazza name, because the former Tottenham footballer Paul Gascoigne would not attract a broad enough public. "We are not interested in short-run licences or characters who are too obscure," says Yeung.

Copywrite Stationery, a Duxford-based company which makes 90 per cent of its £15m sales from folders, pencils and rucksacks bearing licensed characters, checks whether characters have been successful on other products and that they appeal to retailers.

Copywrite discusses "properties" and market trends at regular meetings with other distributors of character merchandise (none of them in the stationery area), says Mike Redfern, managing director and joint founder.

"We also try to get some customer reaction," he adds. "We mock something up and ask Woolworths if they like it. The licensors hate you doing that but I would advise it."

Copywrite is very dependent on its licensors but makes sure it has a wide spread of characters across its three main ranges: children, students and fashion.

Redfern says he makes sure that the characters he picks get good television exposure. He looks for guaranteed repeats as well as the initial 13-week run of a TV series. Gadsby Peet advises licensees to ensure that associated TV programmes are actually being made and are not just being discussed.

A company which is looking for licences can either approach a licensor direct or use a licence agent. The agents who handle characters or brands are a different breed to those who deal with technical product licences, notes Gadsby Peet.

When drawing up a contract there are four main areas to be considered:

DURATION

The typical contract is for between one and three years though one year contracts do not really allow the licensee to obtain the maximum benefit so they should negotiate for an option on renewal where possible. A company will not want to

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Tel: 021-233 2101
Fax: 021-643 7647

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For further information please contact:
Dip Dattani
RDO Binder Hamlyn,
206 Derby Road,
Nottingham, NG7 1NQ
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Fax: 0602 416193

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- ◆ Bar & Residential Lounge
- ◆ Swimming pool & tennis courts
- ◆ Set in 23 acres of grounds
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For further details please contact Jeremy Crawford of the receivers agents Humbers Leisure, 25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FE. Tel: 071-629 6700.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

CONTRACTS & TENDERS



Treuhandanstalt (The government agency privatising eastern Germany property)

Tender for the sale of INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES

by Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch in the south of Saxony/Germany

Company-number, name, location (in brackets: main area of expertise / present number of employees)

Construction/Building Material

(CH-1) Baenhoft Ausbau GmbH

O-9633 Neukirchen

(Painting, floor laying, dry insulation/14)

(CH-2) Chemnitzer Baustoff- und

Fertigteil GmbH

O-9082 Chemnitz

(Building materials, pre-fabricated concrete

slabs, steel parts, pre-fabricated houses/1400)

(CH-3) Erzgebirgsbau GmbH Annaberg

O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz

(Building construction and civil engineering/135)

(CH-4) Technische Gebäuderauerüstung

Annaberg GmbH

O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz

(Heating and sanitation equipment/86)

Chemicals

(CH-5) Fettechemie GmbH

(Plant Mohsdorf)

O-9010 Chemnitz

(Chemical products for the textile, leather and

paper industries, phosphoric acids/85)

(CH-6) SAXONY Schmiedetechnik GmbH

O-9430 Schwarzenberg

(Lubricants, oils and greases/180)

(CH-7) Werda-Chemie GmbH

O-9620 Werda

(Liquid spinning materials, cosmetics/16)

Electrical engineering

(CH-8) Elektro-Fehrmekanik GmbH Mittweida

O-9250 Mittweida

(Control units for TV-tubes, inductive

components/275)

(CH-9) Plastverarbeitung Freiberg GmbH

O-9200 Freiberg

(Plastic products for electrical industry/29)

Wood furniture

(CH-10) Bemeta Metallmöbel GmbH

O-9054 Chemnitz

(Metal office chairs/151)

(CH-11) BOX-möbel GmbH

O-9438 Johanngeorgenstadt

(Furniture for young people, wardrobes,

audio/TV furniture/100)

Mechanical/Agricultural engineering

(CH-15) Anlagenbau GmbH Perig

O-9234 Pings

(Structural steel engineering, maintenance,

assembly/21)

(CH-16) Anlagenbau und Maschinen-Service

GmbH (AMS GmbH)

O-9233 Meuslitz

(Agricultural engineering, servicing/47)

(CH-17) Chemnitzer

Spezialmaschinenfabrik GmbH

O-9002 Chemnitz

(Meat processing machines/67)

(CH-18) Eisenwerk Erla GmbH

O-9435 Erla

(Grey iron castings, job casting/247)

(CH-19) Landtechnik- und Stahlbeuzentrum

Rödlitz GmbH

O-9231 Naundorf

(Container, agricultural engineering,

structural steel engineering/47)

(CH-20) Sächsische Aluminium- und

Metallwarenfabrik Glauhau GmbH

O-9610 Glauhau

(Galvanizing, metal working/65)

(CH-21) Vorrichtungsbau Hohenstein GmbH

O-9270 Hohenstein-Ernstthal

(Special tools/special machinery, clamping

tools/285)

(CH-22) Holztechnik Hohenstein GmbH

O-9270 Hohenstein-Ernstthal

(Lumber, wood processing/14)

(CH-23) Kranbau Hohenstein GmbH

O-9270 Hohenstein-Ernstthal

(Crane assembly/14)

(CH-24) Kettner- und Lederveredlung GmbH

O-9314 Eppendorf

(Leather, footwear/180)

(CH-25) Sattler- und Lederveredlung GmbH

Siebenbrunn

O-9315 Siebenbrunn

(Car seatcovers, parts for car seats/67)

(CH-26) Textilwerk Föhring GmbH

O-9200 Föhring

(Worsted yarn fabrics, uniform cloth/150)

(CH-27) Color & Black Strickwaren GmbH

O-9215 Bautzen

(Ladies' knitwear, jackets and jumpers/26)

(CH-28) Eleganza Strickmoden GmbH

O-9215 Bautzen

(Knitwear/77)

(CH-29) Esterfeld Wäschefabrik GmbH I.A.

O-9701 Esterfeld

(Ladies' outer wear, night wear/25)

(CH-30) FERUS Feinstrickwäsche GmbH

O-9630 Grimma

(Jersey undergarments and night wear/230)

(CH-31) Goldspitze GmbH

O-9701 Reuthen

(Home textiles/46)

(CH-32) Kinderbekleidung Zwickau GmbH

O-9570 Zwickau

(Children's wear/24)

(CH-33) Lunzenauer Mützen GmbH

O-9285 Lunzenau

(Men's and boys' caps, uniform caps/51)

(CH-34) Mittelbacher Textilfabrik GmbH

O-9126 Mittelbach

(T-Shirts, underwear/31)

(CH-35) Modetech GmbH

O-9103 Limbach-Oberfrohna

(Ladies' underwear/80)

(CH-36) Plauener Spitzen und

Spitzenfabrik GmbH

O-9900 Plauen

(Lace and embroidery/75)

(CH-37) Seiden- und Garnveredelung GmbH

O-9317 Sehma

(Textured yarns and twists/230)

TECHNOLOGY

Acquiring a taste for innovation

Andrew Lawrence describes how retail banking in eastern Europe is adjusting to computerisation

Until last year the Slaski Bank in Katowice, in south west Poland, was much like any other in eastern Europe: customers queued for so long that they took sandwiches to eat while they watched the draws out and bureaucratic transactions. These could take so long that people looked on a visit to the bank as a social event.

Behind the scenes, things were even worse. Management information that would be considered vital to banks in the west would either be provided late or not at all. Fraud was also a problem.

In 1989 the Polish government created nine new regional retail banks and told them to prepare for competition and privatisation. Marian Rajczyk, president of the Katowice-based Bank Slaski, the largest of the nine, took a quick decision based on his knowledge of western banks: to use technology to improve customer service, management information, and establish competitive advantage.

He invited western computer companies to provide software, hardware and to undertake the project management for the computerisation of the bank's 42 branches. He

wanted automated teller machines (ATMs), account management, transaction handling, administrative support, and even signature verification. And he stipulated that it had to be done quickly.

At Poland's largest retail bank, and a pioneer in technology, the Slaski project attracted competitive bids. IBM, anxious to establish market share in Eastern Europe, won a fixed-price contract to manage the project, beating off competition from ICL, Digital Equipment and Hewlett-Packard.

The conditions for beginning a project of this kind could not have been worse, says the banking project manager for IBM. Eastern Europe, Maciej Borysoglebski. Slaski's managers had seen western banks in operation and they had high expectations of what could be achieved, but little understanding of either computers or western banking procedures. And unlike western banks, they did not have the computer skills, the stable legislative environment or the infrastructure.

The Slaski managers were also unprepared for such a large computer project. Although they were highly motivated, they were not

used to "task ownership", says Borysoglebski. "They were given tasks and dates for completion and found it very frightening."

From the outset, Poland's poor telecommunications system was a problem. Banks in western countries are able to connect their ATMs to central computers using leased telephone lines, but this is not yet feasible on a large scale in Poland.

In consequence, each branch operates as a self-contained unit, with the ATMs only able to access data held on the local IBM AS/400 minicomputers in each branch. Even when the telecommunications infrastructure is in place, will the machines be linked on a network?

The lack of telecommunications support created another problem for Slaski: how to verify that account holders were who they said they were. This led to Slaski's biggest innovation. Using a software package called Infosign from Inform, a German software house, a customer's signature can be called up electronically on the personal computer workstations for immediate comparison.

IBM chose to use a banking software package from the German software company Actis in order to avoid costly application development. But this created problems of its own: the Polish banking laws changed by the month, creating a need for repeated changes. The dilemma of how much software to re-write, and when, is continuous.

Another problem was that Slaski's offices were not designed for computers. Most branches needed refurbishing, but the quality of the local workmanship could not always be relied upon. Two days before the opening of one branch, the ceiling collapsed. In another branch the walls gave in.

Despite these problems, the project has been completed on schedule. Today, staff at the Katowice Bank pose for photographs behind new computer terminals while behind them customers withdraw money in the banking hall.

Slaski's banking applications are now being eyed by other banks in Poland and eastern Europe. Buoyed up by its technological leadership, Slaski is planning to expand its operations into other parts of Poland.



Technically Speaking Sounds from the myth makers

By Steven Butler

"Although both are digital recording formats, from the point of view of consumers, they will be competing in different segments of the traditional analogue cassette market, and probably not against CDs at all.

DCC will appeal to consumers ready to replace their old tape recorder who want to be able to play old cassettes on the new machine, while at the same time enjoying the advantages of digital sound, namely the absence of background noise. But consumers ought to ask whether their old cassettes will sound nearly as good on the new machines as on the analogue recorder they now own, which probably has high-quality sound reproduction already.

And while no tape hiss is a strong point, musical fidelity of DCC for digital tapes may be no better than the analogue machine.

The first myth about these latest offerings is that because MD and DCC are digital they must sound as good as compact discs.

While audiophiles may argue over CD quality, it is undeniable that the sound which hi-fi equipment makers have been able to achieve on a CD has improved over the years as they have gained experience with digital processing.

Unfortunately that experience may not be directly transferable because the MD and DCC formats are different from CDs and from each other. Indeed, MD and DCC may never match a CD in quality because they employ compression technologies to store more information in a small space. Compression works by eliminating storage of repeated information, theoretically not needed, but this is a bit like saying that a frozen vegetable tastes theoretically like a fresh one because everything important is preserved.

The third myth is that the fate of the two companies involved, if not the entire consumer electronics industry, hangs on the success of these two products. Certainly the consumer electronics industry is in the doldrums, in large part because of a lack of exciting new blockbuster products.

Yet neither DCC nor MD really offers the promise of revolutionising the music industry, as did the launch of compact discs a decade ago. More likely, both will be moderately successful products that will neither make nor break their backers.

The Orbital comes full circle

John Griffiths examines a prototype engine capable of meeting strict emissions standards

Some ordinary-looking, but distinctly strange-sounding, Ford Fiestas have been cruising the British country lanes of Suffolk recently. Beneath their bonnets lie prototype engines which, if an evaluation programme just beginning proves successful, are likely to form the bedrock of Ford's petrol and diesel technology for the mid-to-late 1990s.

The engines have been developed jointly by Ford and the Orbital Engine Company of Western Australia. In the Fiesta, they have three cylinders and work on the two-stroke principle, providing

twice as many power strokes per revolution as a conventional petrol engine - and thus having the smoothness and flexibility of a six-cylinder unit.

Another advantage is that the engine has no valves and thus none of the heavy and complicated components needed to operate them. It is half the size of a conventional engine of similar capacity and saves about one-third the weight of a conventional unit (equivalent to 38 kilograms in the Fiesta). Size for size the engine is 10 per cent more powerful and 12 per cent more economical than its conven-

tional rivals.

Not least of its attractions, according to Ford development engineers, is that it is already capable of meeting the most stringent exhaust emissions standards currently in force.

The unit is now being assessed amid optimism that it will be able to qualify as an "Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle" under even stricter Californian legislation due in 1997. To achieve this, Ford and Orbital claim to have made a "technological breakthrough" in terms of minimising emissions, but are refusing to discuss the details.

Ford has just finished production of 25 Orbital prototypes, which are set to enter service with police forces and other intensive users for a one-year evaluation programme. As some doubt remains over the engine's durability, it is hoped that during the test period each one will cover 100,000 miles.

A further 35 engines are to be manufactured at Ford's Dagenham plant before the end of the year. Some of the test vehicles will enter service in Germany as well.

If the programme does not result in any unexpected problems, Ford hopes to have small, Orbital-en-

gined cars in its range by as early as 1996. Although initial applications are expected to be on small cars, Ford acknowledges that it has other, long-term projects with Orbital covering a variety of engines, including six-cylinder and supercharged units.

Indeed, Jaguar, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ford of the US, has just made the surprise disclosure of its own joint project with Orbital of a 3.2 litre V6 engine. Prototypes of this type are 40 per cent lighter than Jaguar's V12 engine but have the same power output.

The test is in the tasting, or in this case the listening, and the final quality depends on how well the engineers do their jobs. No one knows just yet. And don't believe anyone who claims to have heard the two new technologies run off against CDs. Proper testing comparisons of audio equipment is a subjective business, often best performed in the quiet of your own living room.

The second myth is that MD is in direct competition with DCC, and that only one can succeed.

Credito Italiano S.p.A. 1991 results

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

	Lit. in billions	Pounds Sterling in thousands
LOANS & ADVANCES	36,035	16,719,638
CUSTOMER DEPOSITS	37,803	17,539,960
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY & PROVISIONS (after distribution of profit)	4,732	2,195,569
TOTAL ASSETS	90,959	42,203,457
GROSS PROFIT	563.8	447,187
less:		
Extraordinary items	7.7	3,573
Taxation	250.8	116,367
Write-downs	23.3	10,811
Depreciation & Provisions	392.9	182,299
NET PROFIT	289.1	134,138

The year ended December 31, 1991 closed with a net profit of Lit 289.1 billion. Lit 148.5 billion has been appropriated to Reserves.

The dividend for the year on ordinary shares will be Lit 85, while the dividend paid on savings shares will be Lit 100.

The Pound Sterling countervalues have been calculated using the average Milan/Rome exchange rate registered on December 31, 1991, which was Lit 2,155.25 = £ 1.00.

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Dennis Gartman

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Tim Pettit

Head of Derivatives Marketing
Sanwa Financial Products

Resident speakers from the Price Waterhouse specialist Financial Risk Management Group include Steve Watson, Roger Bartley, Jeff Thompson and Chris Taylor.

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PEOPLE

Stanic's charter to develop standards

Vlad Stanic, former head of management development at TSB group, has been appointed development director for the Management Charter Initiative, the UK body which aims to set standards in management training.

He faces a stiff challenge. The MCI was launched in 1988 only to find - a year later - it lacked the support of UK managers who described the organisation as bureaucratic and uninspiring. Since then, the response from employers has been patchy.

Already christened "the Impaler" by wagging MCI staff, Stanic believes the approach may be useful in his new post: "I would like to impale all

those senior managers who go through the motions but do not actually relate their management development to their business objectives."

He has a reputation for asking people penetrating questions; former colleagues say he is intelligent and confident and has a knack of putting those around him at their ease. He describes his working style as informal and flexible but is determined to meet the business objectives he sets even if that means working all night.

During more than 20 years in personnel he has left some scars on the human resources he managed. At Spicer & Oppenheimer he put reluctant partners through their paces

with the introduction of performance appraisals while senior managers at Rank Xerox found they were required to acquire MBAs.

Born in Yugoslavia in 1941, he was educated and has worked largely in the UK. He is a chartered psychologist who describes himself as a maverick: "Most psychologists have a purer than white approach. They have never heard of the idea of customer services or user-friendly psychology. I have dirtied my hands in industry so I see things from a business point of view."

Most recently he has worked as an independent consultant advising blue chip companies on personnel issues



Non-executive directors

■ Sir Michael Quinlan, permanent under secretary at the ministry of defence until his retirement in April, has been appointed as a non-executive director to the board of Lloyds Bank from September. He is also set to join the board of Pilkington later this year, and is taking over as director of the Ditchley Foundation as well.

The appointment of Sir Michael, a leading authority on nuclear deterrence, also ensures that when Sir Jeremy Morse, the UK clearing bank's formidable intellectual chairman, retires next year there will still be an Oxford first in Classics on the board.

■ Peter Nicholson at RIVA; Andrew Cummins has resigned.

■ Ian Menzies at WESTCOUNTRY TELEVISION on behalf of Henderson Venture Managers.

■ David Orr, chairman of Chateau Latour, at HARVEYS OF BRISTOL.

■ Peter Kent is changing his responsibilities from executive to non-executive at NOBO.

■ Paul Lever, chairman of Lionheart, as chairman of BSM GROUP.

■ John Turner, recently retired senior partner of the Norwich office of KPMG Peat Marwick, at PROPERTY PARTNERSHIPS.

■ Robert Upshall at SUNLEIGH, which has acquired Gavel Securities of which he was chairman.

The fact that many of its inmates are not the greatest fans of the controversial Lloyd's building is obviously no hindrance to participating in the world of design philanthropy, since its architect, Sir Richard Rogers, 38, has just been appointed a trustee of London's design museum.

The Richard Rogers partnership is currently working on the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport, outside London. He has also taken to the printed word recently, co-authoring a blueprint for changing Britain's capital city with Mark Fisher, the Labour party's shadow arts minister.

Joining Rogers on the enlarged, 14-member trustee's board will be Alice Rawsthorn, 38, a journalist with the Financial Times' Paris office. Before taking up her Paris post last year, Rawsthorn wrote for the FT on advertising and design in London. A case of poacher seduced into gamekeeping if ever there was one.

■ David Allen has taken over from Kurt Huber as md of The Clayton Aniline Company; he was previously managing a factory in Brazil for the parent, CIBA-GEIGY.

■ David Simpson, formerly sales director of Steetley Roofing Products, has been appointed sales director of REDLAND Roof Tiles.

■ Graham Bog has been promoted to INCHCAPE's regional director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

■ Paul Hussey has been appointed company secretary and group legal adviser of BUNZA.

■ North Osawa is promoted to md of QUICKE EUROPE at its London headquarters.

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THE WEEK IN LUXEMBOURG

Court authorises multiple professional practices



Last week, the European Court of Justice added another judgment to those already guaranteeing the rights of EC professionals to operate in more than one Community country.

of the ECJ to operate from secondary offices or accept employment while maintaining their original establishments.

Case C-35/90, Commission v Luxembourg, ECJ FC June 16 1992

Jurisdiction in non-contractual product liability cases

In a decision that may limit the possibilities for plaintiffs to shop around for the best forum in which to bring product liability claims, the ECJ clarified the meaning of "contractual matters" in the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and Judgments.

The Court held that proceedings brought in infringement proceedings under its general Treaty enforcement powers against a manufacturer do not concern "contractual matters" when the goods subject to the proceedings alleged to be defective and unfit for their purpose were bought from a party other than the manufacturer in a chain of contracts.

The question of interpretation arose in a damages action brought in France by a French plaintiff against a German manufacturer and French seller of a suction system bought to be attached to two metal polishing machines purchased from a Swiss company.

The plaintiff claimed damages against all parties on the basis of alleged breaches of French health and safety at work rules and on the ground that the goods were unfit for the purpose for which they were bought.

The French court ruled that while it had no jurisdiction over the Swiss company it did have jurisdiction over the German manufacturer and French seller under the Brussels Convention.

The ECJ made what is known as an "autonomous" interpretation of the Brussels Convention provisions, applying the interpretative approach laid down in previous cases.

It interpreted the special rules for "contractual matters", which allow a defendant to be sued in the place where the contract was to be performed, in accordance with the Convention's fundamental objective of ensuring legal certainty for business in the

jurisdiction.

The ECJ said that even though under French law the plaintiff was entitled to sue in the French courts, this deprived business of the legal certainty assured by the Convention's general rule that a defendant must be sued in the country of his domicile, unless one of the Convention exceptions applies.

In the case of dispute between a manufacturer and a sub-buyer of his product, there is no direct contractual relationship. For this reason alone, the Court found the dispute could not benefit from the special jurisdiction rules applicable to "contractual matters" because there was no obligation freely entered into between either party.

The other reasons given by the ECJ for rejecting the broader interpretation, advanced by the Commission in its observations, illustrate the significance the decision may have in product liability disputes.

First, the ECJ said that in a chain of international contracts the contractual obligations accepted by a manufacturer in his agreement with the purchaser are not necessarily the same as those that the purchaser may agree with his own customer.

Second, the principle of judicial protection of parties established in the Community

excludes an interpretation of the special jurisdiction rules which deprives the defendant of certainty as to which court he may be sued in other than a court of his domicile.

Finally, in the vast majority of member countries, including the UK, the liability of a manufacturer to a sub-buyer for defective goods is a tortious or non-contractual liability.

Case C-26/91, Société Handte et Cie GmbH v Société Traitement métalliques-chimiques des surfaces, ECJ FC June 17 1992

Looking Ahead

The ECJ and the CJEU will begin the summer vacation on Friday July 10 1992. In the next three weeks, several judgments are expected as the judges try to clear their desks, including decisions on *tachographs* in the UK and an appeal in a competition case involving *Woodpecker* and *UK Sunday*.

On July 1, the first day of the UK presidency of the Council of Ministers, the oral hearing in the British drinking water case will take place in Luxembourg.

BRICK COURT CHAMBERS, BRUSSELS

SJ Berwin & Co

has announced the appointment of four new partners:

Commercial

Ralph Cohen specialising in European Community Law
Eleanor Paul specialising in commercial contracts and intellectual property law.

Litigation

Bernard Clarke specialising in commercial litigation and arbitration.

Corporate Finance

Matthew Hudson specialising in Corporate Finance, and in particular Management Buy-Outs and Buy-Ins, corporate structuring and venture capital.

KOREA LIBERALISATION FUND LIMITED

International Depository Receipts evidencing 1,000 ordinary shares of US\$ 0.01 each Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

Notice is hereby given that the second Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1EB on the 26th of June 1992 commencing at 10 am to transact the following business:

- To receive the Report of the Directors and Auditors and the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1991.
- To declare a dividend of 6.91 cents net per ordinary share to be paid on 29th July 1992.
- To re-elect Directors
 - (a) WOO PARK
 - (b) YOUNG IL JIN
 - (c) JOHN L DUFFIELD
 - (d) GARRET HARRISON
 - (e) JIM MARTYROSSIAN
- To reappoint the auditors, Ernst & Young, and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Voting arrangements for IDR-holders:
IDR-holders who wish to vote must follow the procedure explained hereunder:

"deliver the IDRs to the Depositary at the latest on 25 June 1992 at the address given below (attention: Securities Department - telephone 508 8215 - fax 21752 MORBIK B), instruct the depositary as to the manner in which votes should be cast, and indicate to whom the IDRs should be returned after the meeting; OR"

"instruct EUROCLEAR or CEDEL to block the number of shares for which they want to vote and to vote on their behalf."

Copies of the Annual Report of the Company are available at Tyndall Holdings PLC, 25 Buckingham, London EC1N 8TH and with the Depositary at the address indicated below.

Depositary:Morgan Stanley Trust Company of New York
Avenue des Arts, 1040 BRUSSELS

Notice of Correction



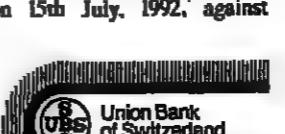
Bank of Greece

Management Board of the National Bank of the Greek Republic

ECU 200,000,000

Floating Rate Notes due 1997

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the three month period ending 15th July, 1992, has been fixed at 10.875% per annum. The interest accruing for such three month period will be ECU 274.90 per ECU 10,000 and ECU 2,748.96 per ECU 100,000 Bearer Note, on 15th July, 1992, against presentation of Coupon No. L.



London Branch
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13th April, 1992

CROATIA

The FT proposes to publish this survey on September 1 1992.

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FT SURVEYS



Portrait of Hugh Gaitskell as a Famous Monster of Filmland, 1964, by Richard Hamilton

If wishes were horses...

William Packer reviews Richard Hamilton at the Tate

A full retrospective at the Tate Gallery is not an unusual honour for a living British artist, but it is a signal honour none the less. It is an honour denied to Graham Sutherland, for example, in his lifetime, and which Lucian Freud and Frank Auerbach have yet to enjoy. To go on with the comparison and, with Melbourne's relish it further for having "no damned merit to it," may be to go too far, but to look upon the list is to begin to wonder whether merit has much to do with it.

Richard Hamilton is now 70 and this current retrospective is his second at the Tate. The first was in 1970, and so familiar does the work remain – indeed much is the very same – that it seems like yesterday. But the familiarity is no mystery. Hamilton has never suffered by lack of documentation – ever copious on his own account as well as critics and curators ever willing to come forward to explain him to himself and to the world at large.

Even by 1970 he was that rare creature in British art, a truly international figure, and so he has remained, his reputation resting quite as much on his general influence as on any physical work of art he might have made. Here was the neo-Dadaist who brought Marcel Duchamp back into the light as the spiritual father of modernism, the conceptual artist *avant la lettre*, the theorist of Pop Art. Here above all was the teacher who asserted the fundamental precedence of the idea over the practice. "In the beginning was the word." Hamilton has indeed lived and thriven by the written and spoken word.

There is no proscription on writing and theorising on the visual arts, but for an artist whose creative efforts must be centred upon the work of art as such, the physical entity as the vehicle of his experience, the dangers that march with them, are very great. To the would-be creative writer, criticism and theory afford a perfectly legitimate opportunity for the medium of language is the medium of the

chosen art. Who would deny that Johnson or Hazlitt, Baudelaire or Pater, Eliot or Woolf were true artists though wearing a critic's hat? The poor visual artist, however, is not so lucky. Whatever the quality of his ideas, and of the language into which he may choose to cast them by way of exegesis, he is still left with the work he must make, the painting to put on the wall or the sculpture in the middle of the room.

When we come to look at Hamilton's works, as they are presented on the wall rather than in his head, the doubts are inescapable. From first to last, they are, where his own hand is evident, quite simply badly done, weak in drawing, fiddly and insensitive in the handling of the paint. The image chosen may be striking enough – a bland Hoteloyer, the E-Block Dirty Protest, an Andrex advertisement, Hugh Gaitskell as a Monster of Filmland, Mick Jagger arrested, Marilyn Monroe, an American limousine, a Hoover – but whichever it is, Hamilton's own intervention, once we get beyond the presentation, is almost invariably singularly inept.

Only with collage does he show a true assurance, and collage is the most seductive and facile of the graphic media. And it is to college in the larger sense that he has always been drawn in practice, bringing together, in his paintings, sculptures and installations, elements already made, elements, more to the point, that he does not have to make himself. His career-long preoccupation with the camera and now the computer, and all the mechanical devices of print-making, bear the same rationalism.

Hamilton makes much of his experience as a student, even showing some youthful schematic studies of the figure by which to establish his academic credentials, but the demonstration is unconvincing. Returning to the Academy Schools after the War, he was soon asked to leave for "not profiting from the instruction given", his self-justifying retort being that there was none by which to profit.

Richard Hamilton: The Tate Gallery, Millbank SW1, until September 6; sponsored by SKH Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

BUDAPEST

CONCERTS
Tamas Gal conducts the Budapest Symphony Orchestra in a Schubert programme tomorrow at the Pest Concert Hall (Vigadó ter 1).

Thurs: Concentus Hungaricus plays a baroque programme at Karolyi Court (City Park), Vajdahunyad Castle). Fri and Sun: Hungarian Virtuosi play works by Bartók, Rossini and Vivaldi at Corvin Hall (Szentháromság ter 6).

Fri at Academy of Music: concert of chamber music by Haydn. Mon: Vivaldi concert by Budapest Madrigal Chorus and Chamber Orchestra (at Varoszak u 9-11).

Pre-booking for concerts at National Philharmonic Booking Office (Vorosmarty ter 1).

DANCE/MUSICAL
European Contemporary Dance Festival tomorrow and Thurs at Petofi Hall Open Air Stage (City Park). Tim Rice's musical Chess has daily performances at

Arizona Rock Theatre (Magyarország u 22).

■ COLOGNE

CONCERTS
Philharmonie: tonight and tomorrow are the final evenings of a festival devoted to the music of Arthur Vincent Lourié (1892-1968). Gidon Kremer and Kenneth Riegel are soloists in tonight's programme with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie. Tomorrow: Dennis Russell Davies conducts the Bonn Beethovenhalle Orchestra in Jeux funèbres and the Second Symphony. Fri and Sat: Hans von Krossen conducts Bruckner's Sixth Symphony. Next Mon and Tues: Sergiu Celibidache conducts the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. July 3, 5 and 7: James Conlon conducts concert performances of Weber's Oberon (2801).

DANCE/OPERA
Opernhaus: tonight's performance is Heinz Spoerli's choreography of La fille mal gardée, in a guest production from Düsseldorf. The repertoire also includes Don Giovanni (tomorrow, Sat and Mon), Un ballo in maschera with Neil Shicoff (Thurs and Sun) and Jochen Ulrich's new Tanz-Forum ballet on Fri (221 8400).

FLORENCE

Teatro della Pergola 20.30 Vittorio Sicuri conducts the Chorus of the Maggio Musicale in works by Dallapiccola, Pizzetti, Verdi, Brahms and Schubert. Thurs: Rossini's Petits

Messe Solennelle. Fri and Sun in Teatro Comunale: MaggioDanza in choreographies by Evgeny Polyskov and Orazio Messina (277 5236).

■ GENOA

Teatro Carlo Felice 21.00 Thalia Theater of Hamburg presents Bob Wilson's production of Tom Waits' The Black Rider. Daily except tomorrow till Sun (589329).

■ LONDON

Coliseum 19.30 Opening of English National Ballet summer season: world premiere of a new work by Kim Brandstrup, plus choreographies by Robert North, Ben Stevenson and David Parsons, repeated tomorrow. Tues, Fri, Sat: Ben Stevenson's new production of Cinderella (071-532 3161).

Royal Opera House 19.30 Rambert Dance Company in new work by Merce Cunningham, plus choreographies by Mark Baldwin, Paul Old and Richard Alston, also tomorrow and Thurs. Fri and Sat: new work by Guido Severini (071-494 5090).

MUSIC

Cover Garden 19.30 Bruno Campanelli conducts Don Pasquale, with Judith Howarth, Raul Gimenez, Francois Le Roux and Paolo Montarsolo, also Fri and Sat. Tomorrow: Samson et Dalila. Thurs: Der fliegende Holländer (071-240 1066). Queen Elizabeth Hall 19.45 Barthold Kuijken directs the Orchestra of the Age of

ARTS

Amsterdam remembers Nono

Luigi Nono died in Venice in May 1990. He belonged with Boulez and Stockhausen as one of the mainstays of the post-war avant-garde, a composer whose music continued to pose new questions and to colonise fresh expressive territory right to the end of his life. In most of Western Europe his music is recognised and accorded the importance it deserves. In Britain it remains too little known and too rarely performed, regarded with unease because of its uncompromising rigour and unfinishing political idealism; in particular only a handful of the wonderfully refined and elusive pieces from the last decade of Nono's life have been heard here.

One of the main strands of this year's Holland Festival, which runs its usual discursive course throughout June in Amsterdam, is a survey of those late works. Five concerts include one or more pieces, and they are clustered about three performances of what is the most extraordinary and refractory of all his output, the *tragédia dell'ascolto* after Aeschylus. *Prometeo*. Claudio Abbado conducted the first performance in the deconsecrated church of San Lorenzo in Venice in 1984; a revised version was performed at La Scala, Milan, a year later.

If the percussion piece *Cow Luigi* (*Dallapiccola* of 1979) and the string quartet *Fragmente-Stille* of 1980 were the signals that the post-bright, agit-prop rhetoric of Nono's music of the 1960s and '70s had been superseded, *Prometeo* emerged as the key to that late contemplative style. In retrospect it appears

as the fixed point, the philosophical, musical and textual centre, around which all the other pieces revolved.

The idea of a new kind of dramatic synthesis was conceived in the wake of the Frankfurt staging of his second music-theatre work *Al gran sole carico d'amore* in 1978; Nono settled upon Aeschylus' tragedy as his starting point and enlisted the philosopher Massimo Cacciari to prepare the text. What Cacciari produced was dense and many-layered: it incorporated material from Aeschylus alongside other Classical Greek poets, the cosmology of Hesiod, extracts from Nietzsche and Hölderlin, Walter Benjamin and Cacciari himself.

In place of a linear narrative there is a series of independent sections, which Cacciari likened to a group of islands in an archipelago. These "islands" are interspersed in the revised version with other elements borrowed from the forms of Greek drama, and prefaced with a substantial prologue. Nono's musical response was similarly intricate. *Prometeo* is scored for five solo vocalists, two narrators, mixed chorus, a collection of solo instrumentalists and four instrumental groups; computers transform the sounds and pan them around the auditorium.

The Venetian premiere took place within an ark-like construction of platforms designed by the Italian architect Enzo Piano; the audience sat in the nave of the church, with the performers arrayed around and above them. The Amsterdam performances took place in the magnificient space of the Goedereenhuis in

the Beurs van Berlage, home of the Netherlands Philharmonic; the solo instrumentalists were grouped around the upper galleries, while the ensembles at the points of the compass were also above the audience.

There is nothing conventionally dramatic about *Prometeo*, no *dramatis personae*, no scenic directions. It is, as the subtitle suggests, a "tragedy to be heard"; not an oratorio nor a piece of music theatre, but something of both, a musical ritual of strange power and enchantment.

Andrew Clements
reviews *'Prometeo'*
and other late works
at the Holland Festival

It is not, though, an easy or ingratianting experience. *Prometeo* is long, an unbroken two-and-a-half-hour span, a musical journey with only the most generalised of maps. Much of it is hermetic and bare, with slowly changing choral and orchestral lines and sudden eruptions of colour or subdued moments of drama – an intricate instrumental solo or duet here, sensuously intertwined vocal lines there, passages of limpid narration which break through the misty outlines of the text settings.

A portion of the near capacity audience failed to stay the course, but the vast majority that remained responded with great enthusiasm to the performance, which was co-ordinated

by André Richard, conducted by Ingo Metzmacher and Peter Rundel, with the Netherlands Chamber Choir and Radio Chamber Orchestra and a distinguished roster of soloists. The total effect of *Prometeo* is certainly vastly impressive, much more than the sum of its individual parts; every element in its arcane scheme seems perfectly placed. It is never going to be a regular concert work, but will continue to give perspective to the last phase of Nono's career.

The evening before the opening of *Prometeo* the Nieuw Ensemble was directed by André Richard in three of Nono's late pieces; barely 50 minutes of music altogether, yet fiercely concentrated pieces in wonderfully committed, intense performances that drew the listener with absolute certainty into their magical sound world. *Guai ai gelidi morti* (1983) offers another textual collage by Cacciari in a setting for two contraltos, six instruments and live electronics. *Past-Prae-Ludium no. 1* ("Donau") (1987) places a solo tuba among computer reflections and transformations of itself, a delicate study of tiny gestures.

Onnaggio a György Kurtag (1986) is again based on a text devised by Cacciari, a conflation that includes Melville and Ingeborg Bachmann. Nono's own programme note makes reference to Schubert's *Winterreise*, an allusion that could be applied to almost all the music here. The suppressed expressive world, the intimate relationship between sounds and texts, conjure Schubertian comparisons; it is "late" music of the most rarefied and special kind.

Dance/Clement Crisp

Mmm

Michael Clark's identity is that of the naughty boy of British dance. His generally youthful public is eager for the trappings of rudery, the zany dress and the occasional flash of bottom or dildo, with which he has cocked various snooks at establishment dance. A cross between Tyl Eulenspiegel and Arthur Rimbaud, anarchic clown and boy genius, this persona is now both unwise and constraining for a man of 30 who seeks, I suppose, to be taken seriously, and who is unquestionably a dancer of prodigious skill if ill-served by it.

His new show – one can't call it a dance-work – is *Mmm*, a mutation of the *Modern Masterpiece* which started out a few months ago. It uses Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. Not the ideal score for a choreographer whose earlier productions have been short-breathed and disjointed, and cursed with the need to live up to its creator's firework and titillating reputation. Clark has already worked on the score in New York, in a joint venture with Stephen Petronio (the piece was, typically, called *Wrong Wrong*). This new version is also still decked with those trappings of Clark-shock which so effectively hinder it from proper development – and serious consideration.

Clark again adopts his role as dance's alternative comedian, obliging his audience with smut, juvenile irreverence. Thus the incidents of tickets, leaflet, tee-shirt and badge emblazoned with a roughly gynaecological drawing. Thus the appearance of Clark's mother, a vulnerable figure as she manifests herself, topless, in the cause of her son's art. Thus, too, the appearance of Leigh Bowery – one begetter of the frightful costume – shrouded in white and identified for us by the C-word writ large, though from his lumbering and blubbery appearance he is more like Moby Dick. And hence the ear-shattering racket by the Sex Pistols as prelude to *Sacre*, which is also amplified to brutal

levels.

The resultant performance is inconsiderable, though it does indicate that Clark is seeking to provide sustained dance interest. The evening begins with a magnificent double solo for Clark and his new colleague, the very gifted Joanne Barrett. Clark's dancing in this brief section is pure, more potent, more exquisite in articulation than we have seen for years. Every gift is his, from purity of line to the most delicate and precise shaping of steps. Thereafter, gimmicks and what might best be known as dirty tricks, proliferate, until *Sacre* begins and Stravinsky serves as a vehicle on which Clark hitches a lift. With his companions Barrett, Julie Hood and Matthew Hawkins, he rides the score, marking its incidents with this, piece-meal movement that wriggles about to the music without saying anything very pertinent until the *danse sacrale*. Here – and the music is cast-iron theatre – he devises a solo for Barrett that conveys the compulsive and convulsive nature of the sacrifice, which Barrett performs with superb control and force. Together with those moments when Clark dances, and eschews everything except his own radiant talent for movement, this is the justification for the evening. But we pay terribly for it in sitting through the din and the fatalities that surround these fascinating moments of true dance, true choreography. Clark, I venture to suggest, has paid even more.

The Kings Cross Depot is a cavernous warehouse – its sightlines not of the best – to be found in the hinterland behind the railway station. It is not an area, in which I would chose to be after nightfall. Shareholders in Beck's Beer will doubtless be flocking to see how their money is being spent.

Michael Clark Company is at The Kings Cross Depot, off York Way, London N1 until June 28. The season is sponsored by Beck's, which is also amplified to brutal

with principals who have sung for him already in other capitals, turned up trumps. For the bass anti-hero, dopy King Dodon, we had Bulat Mingeliev from the Kirghiz and Kirov Operas; stout, forthright, never admitting that he might be a comic character. Young Elena Brilova sang a fascinating Queen. There is more than a touch of Leonia Cottrane about her timbre (bright, plucky, plaintive) and her manner (ditto), and no less intelligent calculation.

Along with the programme-book came the complete text in Edward Agate's rhyming, facetious English. Presumably that is the original flavour? The tale is at once surrealistic-ludicrous, gory and obscurely moral, like many Russian products from Gogol to Bulgakov and beyond, and Rimsky set it in the accepted deadpan way: hardly any overt jokes, every scene composed at face value. Acts 2 and 3 begin respectively with a vista of deathly desolation and a scene of deep public anxiety, and the composer provided them with music as "advanced" and disturbing as anything he wrote. Yet the prevailing tone is fairytale-exotic, wry but picturesque.

In this concert-performance, Mistislav Rostropovich and the London Symphony preserved the ambiguous balance while revelling in Rimsky's opulent orchestral palette. Everything gone, whether in crackling brass or with an opalescent gleam, and the conductor paced the opera unerringly. He allowed himself several cuts in the score, with the happy result that he got through it in less than two hours (plus interval). *Coq d'Or* does have its inconsequential stretches, and without production-tricks to help them along we might grow weary of Rimsky's constant, unabashed recycling of a very few musical elements.

The cast Rostropovich assembled,

Opera in concert

Le Coq d'Or

It is odd of us to keep calling Rimsky-Korsakov's opera that, rather than *The Golden Cockerel* – especially when it is sung in Russian, as at the Barbican on Sunday. (Rimsky never heard it in any language, for he died before the irritable Moscow censors would allow it to be performed.) There, however, the mysterious Queen who arrives with the famous "Hymn to the Sun" proved to hall from "Shemakhan", instead of the old "Shemakhan".

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David Murray

● Telephone sales of tickets for Staatsoper, Volksoper and Burgtheater available worldwide for holders of credit cards by ringing Vienna 5131 513.

■ WASHINGTON

DANCE
Ballet Nacional de Caracas gives performances tonight and tomorrow at Wolf Trap (703-218-6500).
THEATRE

● Richard III: Ian McKellen stars in a production by Britain's National Theatre which sets Shakespeare's play in a realistic Fascist England in the 1930s. Opens tonight, daily except Mon till July 19 (Kennedy Center Opera House 487 4600).
● City of Angels: Michael Blakemore directs Larry Gelbart's hit musical, set in 1940s Los Angeles, until July 19 (National Theater 622 5161).
● Kvetch: Steven Berkoff's play about the anxieties within us. Until July 18 (Woolly Mammoth 355 3535).
JAZZ/CABARET

Wolf Trap's Preservation Jazz and Blues Festival opens on Thurs at the Filene Center with Grover Washington Jr and Roberto Flack. Artists appearing at the weekend include George Russell and the Living Time Orchestra, Phil Woods Quintet and Aretha Franklin. Next Mon: Dolly Parton (703-218 6500). This week's guest at Blues Alley Jazz Supperclub is War: showtimes at 20.00 and

FINANCIAL TIMES

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Tuesday June 23 1992

South Africa on the brink

SOUTH AFRICA has reached a watershed in its search for democracy. Constitutional negotiations have ground to a halt. Not coincidentally, political violence is increasing.

The danger that now confronts the country is that only more violence and civil upheaval will break the impasse in the battle to reconcile majority rule and minority rights. The fearsome possibility that the country could tilt towards ungovernability will undoubtedly be uppermost in the minds of Mr Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) executive at their meeting today, not to mention President FW de Klerk and his cabinet when they meet tomorrow. Looking into the abyss should be enough to give fresh and urgent impetus to negotiations.

The events of the past week, horrific as they were, do not in themselves signal a turning point in South Africa's prospects. Since Mr Mandela's release over two years ago, there have been killings as savage as those that took place in Boipatong township last Wednesday. They have been accompanied by the same allegations that supporters of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party were responsible, together with accusations of security force complicity. The South African police force once again showed on Saturday, when it fired on a grieving crowd and killed three people, how ill-equipped it is for its role in post-apartheid South Africa: badly disciplined, trigger happy and hostile to change.

But when they are set against the backdrop of the breakdown of constitutional talks last month, these latest acts of violence take on a greater significance. The government's insistence on what amounts to a white veto in a new constitution, coupled with its inadequate response to political violence, has persuaded an increasing number of black South Africans to make a fundamental shift in their assessment of President de Klerk's commitment to reform.

A year ago Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) leader, could assuage his constituents' anger by reaffirming

his belief in Mr de Klerk's integrity, and holding out the prospect of multi-party talks at a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). Progress at these talks, which would have joint supervision of the security forces on the agenda, he argued, was the best way to tackle the country's seemingly endemic political violence.

Last weekend Mr Mandela's message to angry and disillusioned supporters was very different. The negotiations were in tatters, he had to admit, and he could no longer use Codesa as a political safety valve. Talk now is of "mass action" - strikes, marches, demonstrations, boycotts.

The ANC has yet to show that it can sustain such activities; but the shift in tactics risks delivering a heavy blow to government hopes for new investment and fresh borrowing, both essential if the economy is to pull out of its recession.

Moreover, the ANC's campaign carries an obvious risk of further violence, whether in confrontation with security forces or with Inkatha. While Mr Mandela may not intend as much, a generation of angry young blacks who sacrificed their education in order to man township barricades, will take this as a mandate for insurrection.

The answer is not, as President de Klerk hinted at the weekend, reintroduction of tougher security measures.

He should instead be restoring his credibility by ordering an independent inquiry into the police role in both the Boipatong tragedies - last Wednesday's massacre and the shootings on Saturday - including allegations that the authorities failed to act on warnings of impending slaughter. He ought to encourage rapid reform of the grim, all-male hotels in the townships, source of so much tension. He should also authorise a more rigorous investigation of the so-called "third force", right-wing extremists set on destabilising the peace process by instigating violence between black parties.

A convincing demonstration of government good faith is needed if negotiations are to resume and South Africa is again to pull itself back from the brink.

A Slav divorce

THE LAST time Czechoslovakia was dismembered it was a victim of Nazi invasion and western impotence. This time the decision to break up into two separate sovereign states follows a general election, in which 85 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote, and several rounds of talks between the elected leaders of both the Czech and Slovak nations. Although deeply to be regretted, the decision at least places responsibility securely upon Czech and Slovak shoulders.

The political situation has polarised and crystallised with extraordinary speed. All pre-election opinion polls showed that a large majority in both republics wanted the common state to continue in some form or other. Now the Czechs, and with slightly less conviction the Moravians, of whom more may be heard later, appear to be rallying behind Mr Vaclav Klaus. He won electoral support in the Czech lands because he promised to continue, and even accelerate, the pace of privatisation and other reforms. These are designed both to prevent a return to the authoritarian past and to fulfil the criteria for full European Community membership by the turn of the century.

His view that continuation of a common state on lines demanded by Mr Vladimir Mečiar, the Slovak leader, would both jeopardise economic reform and risk pulling

independent Slovakia aspires to eventual EC membership, but to qualify, it will have to fulfil onerous entry requirements. That means an open and competitive economy and respect for the rights of minorities. The irony is that this will require following similar policies to those demanded for continuing the federal state.

Top salaries

THIS YEAR'S report from the UK's Top Salaries Review Body - expected to land on the prime minister's desk later this week - is already causing a political storm. Due before the general election, the report is thought likely to recommend pay rises taking some judges, generals and senior civil servants well over £100,000 a year. The government postponed publication to avoid top people's pay becoming an election issue.

The delay has done nothing to make more palatable possible pay rises of 30 per cent. Junior and middle-ranking civil servants have had to make do this year with rises of 4.5 per cent or less and the level of settlements in the private business and Whitehall.

Yet if the report makes recommendations of this magnitude, the government will not wish lightly to set them aside. The TSRB last

year pointed out that the salaries of public servants in its remit are generally less than half the median earnings of comparable managers in the private sector. Recruitment and retention of high-quality public servants in the public interest, as in two-way traffic between high-fliers between private business and Whitehall.

Comparison of risk and reward in the private and public sectors, however, is not as easy as is sometimes assumed. In a period when the government is trying to introduce clearer performance standards into the public services, the debate about civil service pay also needs to become more subtle. A useful next step would be for members of the TSRB to defend their recommendations in public, paving the way for government to set out the reasons for its decision in some detail.

Mr Ferdinand Piëch grinned as he drove off in a big black Audi limousine. He told his driver to get in the back, and slipped behind the wheel himself.

It was a small incident on a sunny day in Munich, but enough to show that Mr Piëch, 55, is different from the usual run of executives who are happy to let their chauffeurs take the wheel. His appointment to take over next year as head of the Volkswagen group, which owns Audi where Mr Piëch is the chief executive, was controversial. Not only is he a somewhat prickly personality, he has uncompromising views on how the industry should improve productivity and cut costs. Both shareholder and union representatives on VW's non-executive supervisory board agreed that Mr Piëch - who impressed at Audi with his record of rising profits and attractive new models - was the man to give the company a thorough overhaul.

On a broader level, the arrival of Mr Piëch at VW marks the growing awareness of German car makers that their once-dominant position is under threat. German companies account for about 40 per cent of total west European sales - producing nearly 5m cars a year and exporting roughly half of them. There are nearly 2m production jobs at German motor manufacturers and suppliers, and twice as many if sales, repairs and other activities are included - one in every six jobs in west Germany. The industry accounts for about a fifth of gross national product and as such has underpinned Germany's postwar "economic miracle".

In spite of the industry's obvious successes, German executives have become edgy. The global recession outside their home markets is forcing car companies to squeeze more profits from existing domestic plants rather than relying on steady growth in worldwide sales. The slowdown is compounding German companies' increasing vulnerability to Japanese competition increasingly in the luxury car area, both from Japanese-built imports and from plants set up in Europe. By the mid-1990s, the latter should be producing more than 1m cars a year. The situation mirrors that of the US in the late 1980s. "The US did not react to the Japanese invasion" and now it's very late for them, Mr Piëch says. "It's no good asking your opponent not to attack any more. It's better to hit back."

Closer to home, European competitors, notably in France, have made great strides. Car makers such as Renault and Peugeot have slashed their workforces and improved efficiency. In the European Community (except Germany), car producers have, over the past decade, shed 410,000 jobs; in Germany, automotive jobs have risen by 75,000 over the same period, spurred by strong demand from eastern Germany following unification in 1990. This artificial boost temporarily masked some of the underlying problems.

The productivity gap between the rest of the EC and Germany has also narrowed. In the 1980s, productivity at French and UK motor companies rose by an average rate of about 6 per cent a year compared with 5 per cent for Spain and only 2 per cent for Germany.

In spite of this development, by 1990, Germany still topped the European league - France's productivity was 81 per cent of Germany's, with Italy at 74 per cent and the UK (before the full impact of recent Japanese investment) still some way behind at 61 per cent - but it

Time to become lean and mean

Andrew Fisher examines the challenges confronting the German car industry

German car industry fine-cost crunch



David Goodhart and Michael Smith look at the arguments for and against high pay increases for top UK public servants

Playing catch-up with private sector fat cats

When Strathclyde advertised for a new chief executive this year, the starting salary of £105,000 will have touched some raw nerves among senior employees in other public service jobs.

Strathclyde may be the largest authority in Britain but Mr Neil McIntosh, the successful candidate will earn more than Sir Robin Butler, head of the civil service, Lord Taylor, the lord chief justice, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the defence staff, all of whom take home an annual £104,750. Until this year, Strathclyde paid its chief executive £76,000.

This level of pay rise for the new generation of public sector executives exacerbates what was always going to be a difficult year for the government on top people's pay. It is caught between pressures to reduce widening differentials between the private sector and the 2,040 senior public servants whose salaries are covered by the Review Body on Top Salaries, and the need to hold down pay in the public sector.

The Review Body's 15th report, and the first full-scale review of comparability with the private sector since 1988, is due to go before the prime minister later this week. It is widely expected to recommend a big narrowing of the gap between senior public servants and company directors, especially for those civil servants on a salary of £50,000-plus at the bottom end of the scale.

The case for such a rise is strong. In big companies, earnings of £104,000 or more for full-time board members, and £250,000 or more for chief executives, are common. In the past seven years, while pay at the top of the private sector has almost doubled - up 96 per cent according to Ray Management Consultants, if incentives and bonuses are included - rises for top public servants have barely matched inflation.

On top of that is the "Strathclyde" factor. Strathclyde is a Labour-controlled council which realises that it has to offer competitive salaries to get good people. The government is pushing even harder in this direction and its determination to introduce private sector methods into the public services is starting to release a small explosion in the pay of the new public sector bosses.

Mr Peter Griffiths, chief executive of Guy's Hospital, one of the first hospitals to acquire trust status under national health service reforms, now earns about £90,000, double what the gen-



LIFE AT THE TOP

	Average earnings	Highest decile non-manual private sector	Top Salaries Review Body		
			Inflation RPI	Highest paid official	Grade 3 Civil servant on appointment
1985	100	100	100	100	100
1986	108	109	103	104	105
1987	116	120	107	108	110
1988	126	133	112	114	115
1989	140	147	121	119	121
1990	154	162	132	128	141
1991	166	171	140	140	154
1992	177	185	146	(182)*	(185)**

*20 per cent pay rise would bring into line with private sector highest decile
**20 per cent pay rise would bring into line with private sector highest decile

Source: Public Finance Foundation

eral manager of a large hospital earned five years ago. Mr John Mackintosh, head of the grant-maintained Oratory School, earns about £60,000, a possible benchmark for the heads of schools which are opting out of local education control under the government's education reforms. The most well-paid public servants of all are to be found among the heads of the Next Step agencies, quasi-autonomous public sector bodies, such as the Defence Research Agency whose head, Mr John Chisholm, earns £140,000.

These salaries may be seen as desirable and even necessary to attract suitably qualified managers but they have severely upset the pay balance at the top of the public sector. Those covered by the Review Body - judges, senior civil servants and top military personnel - are not used to being outflanked on pay from within the public sector.

They are, however, accustomed to being outflanked by the private sector. Figures col-

lated by the Public Finance Foundation, a pay research group, show that between 1985, the last important adjustment to top salaries, and last year, the pay of the highest earners in the Civil Service rose by 40 per cent and that of Grade Three civil servants - formerly called under-secretaries - the lowest paid in the review group, by 54 per cent.

However, the top 10 per cent of non-manual workers in the private sector saw earnings rise by 71 per cent over the same period. Those figures may be distorted by a one-off private sector "catch-up" for top managers.

ers in the privatised utilities. On the other hand, the figures also mask higher rises for the most senior executives in British industry, and exclude perks such as subsidised mortgages and company cars. Research for last year's Top Salaries Review Body found that the median salary, plus bonuses, of chief executives at private sector financial companies with turnover of more than £70m a year was £230,000, the rate of inflation, this year.

The most powerful argument of all for the government to resist large rises is a feeling that they would send the wrong signals both to the private sector - where pay settlements have only recently fallen below German levels for the first time in many years - and the majority of public sector workers whose pay is determined by collective bargaining. They will only receive an increase of about 4 per cent, the rate of inflation, this year.

made a name for himself as an expert behind-the-scenes negotiator. He played a central role in obtaining great secret the release of hostages from Lebanon, and indeed the news of his switch to Ferruzzi comes precisely when the last remaining western hostages, two Germans, have been freed.

Picco is expected to be based primarily in New York and help beef up the group's US profile which declined when the flamboyant Raul Gardini was running Ferruzzi.

Interesting to see whether he makes as big a mark in the private sector as he did in the public sector.

Gone sailing

One might think that Tony Ryan, the hard-working chairman of GPA, would have ordered all his top executives to return to base to discuss how to salvage the company's credibility after it had to cancel its global stock market debut last week. But if he has, then Colm Barrington, chief executive of GPA Capital, has a more pressing engagement.

He was reported yesterday to be "watching the sun rise over Galway Bay" at the helm of Whirlpool, the lead host in the Round Ireland Yacht Race which set off from Wicklow last Saturday. But the 46-year-old Barrington, who holds more GPA shares than any director save Ryan, was said by the race organisers to be keeping very quiet on the VHF radio out of earshot not only of the following boats but presumably Ryan as well.

Smart choice

Big Italian companies have a habit of hiring ex-diplomats. Even so, there is some surprise at the speed with which Ferruzzi/Montedison, Italy's chemicals and foodstuffs conglomerate, has grabbed Giandomenico Picco, the UN hostage negotiator.

The 44-year-old Picco, who is stepping down as under-secretary general, has

been named as the new foreign minister to name a few foreign ministers. Last week that he had been unable to inform the king of his ministerial choice because the monarch was out of the country. The 54-year-old king, who was resting near St. Moritz, did return to see the Prime Minister briefly before heading back to Switzerland - with the result that he missed his father's 75th birthday party.

Fun palace?

The "To let" signs came down last week from Rose Court, the controversial Southwark office block built on top of the remains of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre.

It was not, alas, because the building had found a tenant. Rather it was because a TV crew had moved into its top

Concert Hall in south London presents Il Trovatore, featuring the programme promises "The Avril Chorus".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Fax 071 873 5338. Letters transmitted should be clearly typed and not hand written. Please set fax for finest resolution

From Mr John D Incledon

Sir, You identify correctly the key issue for Lloyd's and its future, in your editorial "Lloyd's and its casualties" (June 18). Unless Lloyd's can build its capital base, it has no future - a truism for any business organisation.

My 11 years as a Lloyd's Name have led to an overall loss from my membership - with further losses to come. In aggregate, I have handed over money to the society for the dubious privilege of risking all the assets on which my family and I depend. Yet I do not face financial ruin and would prefer to remain a Name.

But the worldwide casualty insurance business has shown dreadful returns for its sources of capital in recent years - whether shareholders or private capital, as at Lloyd's. The Hoare Govett report on Lloyd's in May shows clearly that Lloyd's, the UK composites and the US insurers do not produce profits to match the risks being taken.

Part of the difference between public and private sector salaries has been justified by superior pension benefits and job security enjoyed by the public servants. To counter this, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, the National Union of Civil and Public Servants and the Institute of Professional Managers and Specialists, which represent senior civil servants, have presented evidence to this year's Review Body based on a report by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountancy firm.

The report says not all job turbulence in the private sector is a result of less secure employment. Job changes reflect a desire by private sector managers for wide experience, and head hunting by employers. "Even in the midst of recession the length of time on average between jobs does not seem to outweigh the length of time over which financial support is available," says the report.

The unions also argue that if the government wants more job flexibility between the private sector and the Civil Service, pay differentials will have to be narrowed.

However, even if the Review Body and the government were to accept this argument, and the case for a catch-up, there are equally strong pressures for resisting big pay rises.

First, pay rises for private sector executives have become much more modest in the past year, falling, according to Hay, to 7 per cent from a peak in 1988-89 of 20 per cent.

Second, the recession means that the problems experienced by public sector employers in recruiting and retaining staff in the late 1980s have faded.

The Treasury says there is no indication of a decline in the quality of candidates for fast stream entry - designed for high-flyers - to the Civil Service and that, apart from some specialist areas, there are an adequate number of high-flyers to fill Grade Three posts, the most junior civil service grade covered by the Review Body, and above.

The most powerful argument of all for the government to resist large rises is a feeling that they would send the wrong signals both to the private sector - where pay settlements have only recently fallen below German levels for the first time in many years - and the majority of public sector workers whose pay is determined by collective bargaining.

They will only receive an increase of about 4 per cent, the rate of inflation, this year.

Lloyd's costs and assets base seen as root of problems

syndicates believe they should take profit commissions of between 12 per cent and 20 per cent of profit, while Lloyd's brokers believe their commissions should always be at least 10 per cent of premiums payable. The whole Lloyd's infrastructure had become greedy and complacent.

But once reinsurance returns are in sight, risk capital will return from individuals as well as companies.

John D Incledon,
Sudan 35
140 Park Lane,
London W1Y 2AJ

From Mr Alan J Leboff

Sir, As an external Lloyd's Name I have so far gone along with David Coleridge's comment that Names "freely signed pieces of paper authorising membership of each Syndicate", despite my misgivings as to the expertise of my agents and the losses my children have suffered of £100,000 for 1988 and £200,000 for 1989, with (I am told) further losses to come at least for 1990, and have not joined in litigation despite being urged to do so.

However, at my rota interview I asked the same questions I had of my prospective agent: "What will membership cost me in fees etc and (as I was wary of joint and several liability) what if other names on a syndicate cannot pay

their share of losses?" and received the same answers: to my second question, "each Name writes for themselves, not one for another". When my children joined subsequently the Orthwaite problems were receiving wide publicity and at their rota they asked, "is there any way we could end up paying for these other people's losses?" and were told unequivocally there was not.

The Council of Lloyd's has now decided that the market losses require that we should pay a levy, effectively retrospectively in that resignation now would not avoid it, which in real terms would cost us an additional £112,500 on top of our further losses to come.

This makes "not one for another" a travesty; I do not expect anyone else to pay our losses, but we did not join Lloyd's as captive providers of indefinite amounts of capital.

Alan J Leboff,
Andelain,
South Park Crescent,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire SL9 8EJ

From Mr Alan Smallbone

Sir, The answer to your leader's first question - "was there any wrongdoing?" is "Yes": by past committees of Lloyd's and agents, acting in concert, to suppress Lord Cromer's recommendations of 1989 - to favour their interests at Names' expense".

Alan Smallbone,
39 Temple Fortune Lane,
London NW1 7UD

Bad advice on County Hall

From Mr Christopher H Burt

Sir, How depressing to witness Dr John Ashworth, director of the London School of Economics, enthusiastically supported by the FT, urging the government to cancel the sale of County Hall to Shirayama Shokusan company in favour of the LSE. For two such illustrious parts to offer such advice, which is manifestly wrong in financial terms, is extraordinary.

The FT and respected econo-

mists spend much time urging the government to keep public spending under rigorous control. Then, your leading article of June 18 blandly refers to the proposed unnecessary expenditure of £120m as "modest".

We are assured the LSE is the foremost social science university in Britain, perhaps in Europe. If this is so, its standing will be a function of the quality of the teaching staff and the students, and not the grandeur of its building.

Christopher H Burt,
22 Rue de l'Aqueduc,
1050 Brussels

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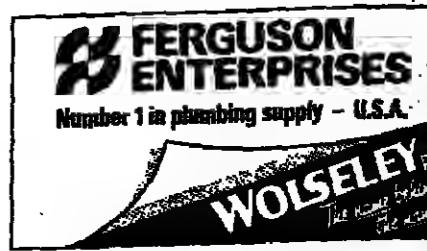
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday June 23 1992



De Klerk flies in as ANC calls crisis meeting

By Philip Gash in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICAN president F.W. de Klerk announced yesterday he would cut short a visit to Spain and return in time to chair a cabinet meeting tomorrow which will address the country's political turmoil.

Mr de Klerk's move follows a decision by the African National Congress, which on Sunday cut off bilateral talks with the government, to convene an emergency national executive committee meeting today.

The organisation attacked Mr de Klerk yesterday for his insensitivity in leaving the country at this time.

The ANC will discuss its response to last week's massacre of 42 people at Boipatong near Johannesburg. It blames the attack on the Zulu-based Inkatha movement, and is incensed that three more were killed on Saturday by police who opened fire on a crowd soon after Mr de Klerk aborted a visit to the township.

The ANC is expected either to suspend temporarily its participation in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa - the constitutional negotiating forum made up of 19 political parties - or to make further participation contingent on how the government responds to the massacre.

Financial markets in South

African reacted nervously yesterday to the deteriorating political mood. Worst affected was the financial rand, the investment currency for foreigners, which fell by 6.7 per cent from Friday's close to finish at R3.84 to the US dollar. The discount to the commercial rand widened to 27 per cent, the highest it has been this year.

On the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the overall index closed at 3,638, down 42 points or more than 1 per cent.

The ANC executive meeting comes against the backdrop of the worst crisis in the negotiations process since the unbanning of the ANC in February 1990. There were, however, hints from both sides yesterday that they may be seeking to pull back from the brink.

Mr Terblis Delport, the government's spokesman on Codesa, said it would be a "tragedy" if the ANC was to pull out of the forum. "That would be putting us back a lot... we would be very disappointed if the ANC would entertain the idea."

Mr Delport said an invitation to the ANC by Mr P.K. Botha, foreign minister and acting president in Mr de Klerk's absence, to join the government in talks was an effort to move forward.

Professor Kadar Asmal, a member of the ANC executive, said the organisation remained



A protester carries a message for President F.W. de Klerk during a demonstration in Johannesburg yesterday

"firmly committed" to negotiations but added that the way out of the current impasse was to move quickly to an interim government.

Investment analysts think the equity market will probably continue to move lower until there is evidence that Codesa is back on track. Mr Mike Soekoe, chief dealer at stockbroker Simpson McKee, said it had been a very nervous day with volumes low and few people keen to buy. He said that even the weaker financial rand, making stocks cheaper in dollar terms, had not enticed

foreign investors into buying.

One dealer said he did not expect heavy selling unless there was complete anarchy. The JSE is dominated by institutions which not only take the long view but are also constrained in their investment options by exchange controls.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mr Steve Tshwete, ANC sports spokesman, both called into question South Africa's participation in the Barcelona Olympics.

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Italian banks lift prime rate to 14%

By Robert Graham in Rome

SEVERAL Italian commercial banks raised their prime rate - at which they lend to leading customers - from 13.5 per cent to 14 per cent yesterday in reaction to a series of increases in short-term money rates by the Bank of Italy last week.

The central bank's moves were aimed at shoring up the lira. Pressure on the currency eased slightly yesterday as the markets had time to make a more measured judgment of the impact of the Irish referendum vote last week in favour of the Maastricht treaty for closer European union.

After the Danes rejected the treaty in a referendum at the start of the month, businesses and bankers worried that the process of closer European integra-

tion would be slowed and the resolve of the Italian authorities to tackle the country's deteriorating public finances would be weakened.

Consequently, the lira has come under heavy pressure and the Bank of Italy has had to intervene both in the foreign exchange markets by selling D-Marks and by raising domestic interest rates.

Yesterday the lira was being traded at L755.8 against the D-Mark. This compares with the L765 floor against the D-Mark permitted under Italy's commitment to the narrow band of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

Early on Friday, when the result of the Irish referendum was still uncertain, the lira was being quoted at L757.8 against

the D-Mark. Then, as the result clarified, the currency strengthened to 14.5.

The cost of the central bank's support operations in the foreign exchange markets during the past two weeks is not known. In supporting in the domestic market, the bank has been obliged to raise short-term interest rates in the past two weeks by more than 2.5 points.

By last weekend the rates paid on short-term repurchase agreements with the commercial banks had reached almost 15 per cent.

The delicate state of the lira and such high interest rates have added urgency to the consultations of Mr Giuliano Amato, the deputy leader of the Socialist party, to form a new government.

He was given the task last Thursday and hopes to present a programme to parliament by the end of this week.

Mr Amato will be obliged to come up with a quick mini-budget to cope with the public sector deficit, which has on current projections overshoot the 1992 budget estimates.

Instead of a public sector deficit held down to L128,000bn (\$107m), latest projections suggest it will reach L175,000bn by the end of the year. The new government must thus find ways to obtain an extra L47,000bn through raising revenues or cutting spending.

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French parliament votes on Maastricht

By Ian Davidson in Paris

FRANCE will today take a decisive stride towards ratifying the Maastricht treaty on European union, when it completes the requisite revision of the constitution.

After six weeks of debate in the National Assembly and the Senate, the two houses of parliament meet today in a special joint sitting in the Palace of Versailles. They are expected to vote heavily in favour.

Despite fierce resistance from a large section of the Gaullist RPR party, and total opposition from the Communists, the constitutional amendments last week secured large majorities in both houses. The Senate voted 192 to 117, and the National Assembly 288 to 41.

The addition of these votes suggests the government should have no difficulty in securing the necessary three-fifths majority in today's joint session of 386 parliamentarians.

Coming on top of the big majority in last week's Irish referendum, a successful vote in the French congress will be an important morale booster for the European Community summit in Paris Mitterrand.

A poll at the weekend showed a further drop in Mr Mitterrand's rating, with only 28 per cent approving of him and 68 per cent disapproving.

The only consolation for the government is that the Maastricht debate has produced a deep split between the Gaullists and their regular conservative partners in the Centrist and UDF parties. These parties last week voted

overwhelmingly in favour of the constitutional revision, and their leaders have undertaken to campaign in favour of ratification of the treaty.

Government officials are acutely aware, however, that support for the treaty could yet be jeopardised by the deep personal unpopularity of President François Mitterrand.

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These parties last week voted only 18 per cent against.

This is a wider margin of support than in previous polls, and should augur well for the referendum.

Government officials are acutely aware, however, that support for the treaty could yet be jeopardised by the deep personal unpopularity of President François Mitterrand.

A poll at the weekend showed a further drop in Mr Mitterrand's rating, with only 28 per cent



FINANCIAL TIMES COMPANIES & MARKETS

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Tuesday June 23 1992

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INSIDE

Hays buys French food distributor

Hays, the UK business services group, yesterday announced the acquisition of Groupe FRIL, a French food and drink distribution company, for £37.5m (\$69.4m). FRIL's customers include Carrefour, Yoplait and Moët Hennessy. Mr Ronnie Frost, Hays chairman and chief executive, said: "There are a lot of good acquisition targets out there in Europe and England." Page 26

Ecu bond market restarts

The European Investment Bank's Ecu350m (\$457.5m) offering yesterday met surprisingly strong demand. It was the first since the Danish referendum rejecting the Maastricht treaty sent Ecu bond prices tumbling. Page 24

Hanson's favourable US image

Hanson Industries, the North American arm of Hanson, prides itself on being a committed builder of core businesses. This is in stark contrast to the UK image of Hanson as a take-over gluton, chewing and spitting up companies. The reaction of US companies acquired by Hanson has been positive: "The big difference working for Hanson is that we now look for acquisition opportunities instead of diversification opportunities," said one. Page 27

Top crop

Wimbledon means strawberries and cream, and Britain's growers of the fruit are delighted. This year is turning out to be an especially good one for strawberries, with a main crop not only earlier than usual but of exceptional quality. Page 28

Kuwaiti bank prospers

Kuwait's banking system was shattered when Iraq invaded the country in August 1990. But within a few months National Bank of Kuwait, the largest Kuwaiti bank, was up and running again: Results for the combined years of 1990-91 indicate the bank has emerged from the crisis in impressive shape. Page 21

Japan dents world share index

Ireland's vote in favour of the Maastricht treaty lifted European shares after their recent weakness, but Tokyo remained beaten with problems, and bore much of the blame for last week's 2.1 per cent fall in local currency terms in the FT-Actuaries World Index. Back Page

Moves at Mothercare

Storehouse, the UK retailing conglomerate, has announced that Mr Derek Lovelock was resigning as chief executive of Mothercare to be replaced by Ms Ann Iverson, who was appointed last month to the number two slot at the childrenswear chain. Page 26

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Chief price changes yesterday

INDUSTRY (DOW)		PALESTINE (DPM)	
Hilti	+ 25	Crab Lyon (X)	- 16
Holiday Inn	+ 25	Gauthier (Soc N)	522 - 16
Leithfield	+ 25	Dakyo	470 - 21
Forbes	+ 15	Lapic	435 - 15
Aschenbach	- 15	DAP	475,3 - 15,5
Philips Konink	- 15	Leibell	425,5 - 15
Rheinmetall	- 15	Worms Co	325 - 12
Willys (Ford) (Cont'd)	- 15	Willys (Ford) (Cont'd)	- 15
Merck	+ 21	Colgate	1500 - 150
Fiat	- 15	Dakyo	670 - 75
Steel Fund	- 15	Hiko Motors	460 - 55
Heat Tech	- 15	Japan Aviation	520 - 60
Intl Pacifier	- 15	Merck	520 - 15
Monsie Fund	- 20	Merck	520 - 15
Tektronix	- 14	Neck-Pfaffen	322 - 12
LONDON (Panex)			
Amoco	+ 25	Lamont & S.	65 - 8
Arco	+ 25	London Land	263 - 25
Herts (P)	+ 22	Owners Abroad	77,2 - 3
Marshall Bros	+ 15	Pepsi	408 - 17
Microvacs	+ 27	Pilkington	131 - 6
Small Firms	+ 12	Shoprite	532 - 13
Ford	- 15	Spirs-Sarco	265 - 9
Amico-Dex	- 15	Telecom	57 - 5
BPS	- 15	Traderite	107 - 22
Flame	- 14	Trelagor Hse	913 - 12
Glass	- 22	Wellcome	
Heworth	- 11		

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State rejects reselection of Bull chairman

By William Dowdick in Paris

THE FRENCH government has refused a bid by Mr Francis Lorentz, chairman of Bull, to be reselected for a second term at the head of the loss-making state-owned computer maker.

Mr Lorentz, who has had a series of disagreements with the government over Bull's strategy in the past 18 months, said yesterday he had no deep regrets about leaving the job because he was handing over to a businessman with good industrial experience who was likely to pursue the same policies.

His supporters believe it is no coincidence the move comes at the same time as publication of the annual results of the Cour des Comptes, France's official accounting watchdog, which criticises several aspects of Bull's management.

Mr Lorentz pointed out that he applied six weeks ago to renew his mandate — which expires on Monday — to ensure continuity in the three-year programme of reorganisation of the company's structure and products.

"I did not see at the time someone who would be able to replace me very fast and make the company go ahead at the same speed and at the same direction," he said. Bull is only halfway through the plan, which lasts until 1993 and is designed to restore it to profitability by the end of this year.

The change, part of a three-yearly review of the mandates of 45 public sector chairmen, was

expected because of the well-publicised clashes between Mr Lorentz and Mrs Edith Cresson, the former prime minister. They differed over the acquisition of a 4.7 per cent stake in Bull by NEC, the Japanese electronics company — which Mrs Cresson tried to block — and a technical and marketing accord with IBM, in which the US computer maker took a 5.6 per cent stake in Bull.

Mr Lorentz achieved his objective both times but is thought to have made enemies beyond Mrs Cresson's immediate

encouragement.

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Emiko Terazono on Japanese losses in their own market

Tokyo offers riches to foreign brokers

By Emiko Terazono

Tokyo, June 23

The Nikkei's continuing plunge — yesterday it fell through

the 16,000 mark — has dragged down the fortunes of Japanese stockbrokers, a small band of foreign ones included.

These companies are ranking in record returns.

Figures in Tokyo this week

showed that in the year to March, the Japanese office of

Salomon Brothers, a

made more profit than any Japanese broking company except Nomura Securities.

Goldman Sachs, another Wall Street house,

secured third place ahead of

Daishi Securities, Morgan Stanley

and the securities arm of Societe Generale were not far behind.

What particularly annoys Japanese

broking company managers

is that the successful foreign

owned operations make their

money largely from trading their

own capital using computer-

driven programmes. No need for

customers. Nor for Japanese

speaking staff. Nor, indeed, for

anyone who knows anything

about Japanese companies, say

the Japanese.

Japanese brokers have tried to

get into the game but have failed

to keep up with the skills of the

Wall Street imports. So they

must rely on a dwindling flow of

orders from investment clients,

which is proving insufficient to

keep them out of the red.

Japanese companies have even tried to persuade the Ministry of

Finance to clamp down on arbitrage

trading by the Nikkei to to stock market.

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keep

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

National Bank of Kuwait regains vigour after surviving Gulf crisis

The first full set of results since the invasion suggests NBK is stronger than ever, writes David Barchard

WHEN Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the emirate's banking system was shattered. But within a few months of the invasion, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the largest Kuwaiti bank, was up and running again.

In May this year, NBK published results for the combined years of 1990-91, its first full set of figures since the invasion. They are impressive by any standards.

Though group assets have fallen by 21 per cent since 1989 to \$10.17bn, profits of \$155.5m are \$2.36 per cent higher and – to judge by the strength of its capital base – NBK looks even more muscular than it did before the invasion.

Its risk-to-assets ratio has risen from 14.4 per cent before the invasion to 15.2 per cent in

May. By the standards of most banks in North America and Europe, this suggests almost excessive caution. But NBK takes the view that it lives in a hazardous part of the world and needs a stronger capital base than western banks.

Just how hazardous was shown on August 2 1990 when Iraqi troops marched into Kuwait City. By a happy coincidence, NBK's chairman, Mr. Mohammed Abdul Mohsin Al-Kharafi, and most of its directors were in London that day, as was Mr. Ibrahim Dabdoub, its chief general manager.

As a result, there was never any question about the validity of decisions taken in exile, and lines of authority inside the bank were never in question.

By 10.20am on the morning of the invasion, the bank's board had sent out messages worldwide, revoking all the powers of the Kuwait-based operations. At that point, about half the bank's assets and 65 per cent of the loan portfolio was outside Kuwait.

Even so, in the immediate aftermath of the invasion, the bank's management had to battle desperately on three fronts. One was the struggle to get freezing orders against Iraqi and Kuwaiti banks in western countries lifted so that its branches outside Kuwait could function normally. It took three days to get the US authorities to lift their order and a week before a similar order in the UK was removed.

Meanwhile, the bank's staff had to cope with thousands of customers stranded outside its head office in Kuwait City. Computer records were quietly collected and driven out of Kuwait and into Jordan via Iraq by courageous employees. Within a few months, all the bank's records were reunited at its temporary headquarters in London.

NBK's branches never formally closed down during the days of the freeze, but they were at a considerable disadvantage when handling customer needs. "We lost quite a few customers in the first few weeks after the invasion," NBK says.

Since then, it has regained much of the lost business and taken on new customers, largely as Kuwaiti customers of the country's other banks

shifted to it. The third and trickiest problem was to regain access to its records housed in its head office in Kuwait City. Computer records were quietly collected and driven out of Kuwait and into Jordan via Iraq by courageous employees.

Within a few months, all the bank's records were reunited at its temporary headquarters in London.

The first strategy was designed to ensure it could operate indefinitely in exile if Kuwait remained under Iraqi control. The other was to start making tentative preparations for the work that would be needed once a return to Kuwait City took place.

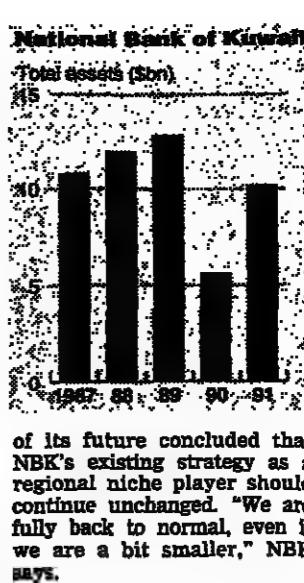
As it turned out, there had been little physical damage to its Kuwait head office. A new

mainframe computer was installed and the bank began functioning again in its old headquarters.

But the environment in which it operated had changed dramatically. The Kuwaiti government confiscated Kuwaiti banks' hidden reserves and collateral. Along with other banks, NBK had to accept government bonds in exchange for its domestic loan portfolios.

It also lost about 100 staff as part of the general exodus of Palestinians from Kuwait after the war. Mr Dabdoub, the chief general manager and the driving force in the bank, is Palestinian. He remained in London until eight months after the war's end.

A post-war strategic review



GE and Hitachi expand joint venture activities

By Andrew Saxter

GENERAL ELECTRIC of the US and Hitachi of Japan have announced an expansion of their long-standing co-operative agreements, opening up new opportunities for GE to export power transmission and distribution technology to Japan.

The two companies said yesterday they had entered into long-term co-operative agreements designed to strengthen their competitive position in the utility transmission and distribution market.

The agreements extend for another 10 years the companies' joint venture, launched in 1977, to market high-voltage

breakers in the US. The venture will change its name from High Voltage Breakers to GE-Hitachi HVB.

The new agreement also allows GE to access the Japanese market with its transmission and distribution equipment, and provides for the sharing of technology.

Obtaining access to the Japanese transmission and distribution market is a significant boost for GE, complementing the position it has already established in power generating equipment. GE is prime contractor on Tokyo Electric Power's 2,800MW combined cycle plant, the largest in the world, which is due for completion in the mid-1990s.

Chevron signals interest in Kazakhstan pipeline project

By Alan Friedman
in New York

CHEVRON, the fourth-largest US oil and gas company, has signed a memorandum of understanding expressing its interest in joining a consortium that is planning to build a pipeline to transport oil from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

The San Francisco-based company, stressed yesterday it was not yet a formal partner in the consortium, which is led by the government of Oman. Chevron added it would only consider joining the consortium once the pipeline had been constructed.

Chevron is, however, already deeply involved in the exploration for oil in Kazakhstan, having last month signed an agree-

ment with the republic that could lead to the multi-billion dollar development of an area covering about 4,000 sq km.

Oman, which announced the pipeline plan, said the completion cost could range between \$700m and \$1.5bn, depending on the route chosen from Kazakhstan. The pipeline plan calls for the shipment of oil from the former Soviet republic to world markets along one of eight possible routes – these could run to the Mediterranean, the Black Sea or the Persian Gulf.

Oman and Kazakhstan last week signed an accord to form the pipeline consortium. Officials in the energy industry say Chevron is just one of several possible consortium partners being canvassed by the two governments.

Corning held back by charge

By Karen Zagor in New York

CORNING, the US specialty glass group, yesterday turned in underlying second-quarter earnings of \$83.2m, or 47 cents a share, a 15 per cent advance on the same period last year.

However, net income was reduced by a pre-tax charge of \$16.3m linked to a special charge to cover costs related to silicone breast implants at Dow Corning, a 50-50 joint ven-

ture between Corning and Dow Chemical. As a result, Corning had net income of \$72.1m, or 38 cents, against \$78.9m, or 41 cents, a year earlier.

Sales in the period rose 19 per cent to \$926.7m from \$778.2m.

For the first half, Corning had net income of \$150.2m, or 79 cents, on sales of \$1.72bn. The results compare with earnings of \$124.3m, or 67 cents, on sales of \$1.47bn a year earlier.

FDA approves Merck drug

MERCK, the world's biggest pharmaceutical company, has received US regulatory permission to market its Proscar drug for the treatment and control of benign prostate disease, writes Karen Zagor.

The Food and Drug Administration's ruling comes about four months after an advisory panel to the US watchdog decided that the benefits of Proscar outweighed the risks.

Although the FDA had been

widely expected to approve the drug after the advisory panel's decision, news that Proscar would be on the market by late July spurred active trading in Merck shares, which rose 3% to \$49 by mid-session yesterday.

Merck believes that Proscar will be its next \$1bn product. Earlier this month Proscar was approved for marketing in the UK.

U.S. \$200,000,000

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June, 1992

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND CAPITAL MARKETS

S African glass group cuts payout on earnings slide

By Philip Grewitt
in Johannesburg

PLATE GLASS and Shatterprufe Industries (PGSI), part of the South African Breweries stable, reported a steep drop in earnings and is cutting its dividend.

Increased second-half US losses and weakness in domestic markets left net attributable earnings 24.5 per cent lower at R50.8m (\$14.1m) for the year to March 1992. The dividend is going down by 32 per cent to 150 cents a share.

The directors said, however, they expected earnings growth in the current year as losses in Belron International, focus of the group's international trading activities, were expected to be considerably lower.

Turnover last year dropped by 14 per cent to R198.6m, due mainly to discontinued operations. Margins were also squeezed because of difficult trading conditions and development costs.

This caused operating profit to fall by 19 per cent to R24.8m. At the net level, lower interest and tax bills were offset by an increase in preference dividends and an unchanged minority share.



Ronnie Lubner: aims to be globally competitive

Last year's second half was eventful for PGSI with the acquisition from Pilkington of a half-share in Glass and of furniture group Afco's 24 per cent holding in PG Bison.

A R354m rights issue was successfully concluded. SA Breweries now has an effective 67 per cent controlling interest in PGSI following the acquisition of Flacor, PGSI's holding company, and its financial par-

ticipation in the Glass and PG Bison deals.

Mr Lubner, chairman, said the group planned to focus on continued leadership of the South African board and glass industries and on aggressive development of the offshore automotive replacement glass (ARG) installation business. PGSI has 600 ARG outlets in 11 countries.

"Following the Pilkington and Afco deals, we now hold 97 per cent and 72 per cent of Glass and PG Bison respectively. We will continue to defend our position against imported glass and strive to be globally competitive," said Mr Lubner.

Other than the UK, Benelux and central Africa, which returned good results, the other main divisions experienced lower profits. Efforts by US management to cut costs and increase marketing initiatives were countered by a 4 per cent market dip and falling prices. Increased competition and the slowdown in the automotive, building and furniture industries in South Africa hampered the performance of local operations.

GIO flotation set at A\$2.40

GIO Australia, the insurer being privatised by the New South Wales state government, will be offered to the public at A\$2.40 a share, according to Mr Nick Greiner, the state's premier, Reuter reports from Sydney.

Institutions have been invited to tender at prices between A\$2.10 and A\$2.40 a share. A total of 500m shares will be issued, Mr Greiner said in launching the prospectus for the flotation.

The government hopes to raise A\$1.2bn (US\$783m) from the sale of 100 per cent of GIO, which had net assets at end-1991 of A\$1.05m. GIO was formerly the Government Insurance Office, a general insurance company owned by the state government.

The final price will be set on the basis of public and institutional demand. "All investors, both institutional and private,

will pay the same price for shares," the state government said.

Directors have forecast an operating profit after tax for the year to June 30 1992 of A\$10.5m, or 21 cents a share, compared with A\$9.6m in the year to June 1991. GIO intends to pay a 10 cents a share dividend for the year to March 31 1992.

"Directors expect to maintain the dividend in respect of 1992/93 and it will be payable in May and November of each year," the state government said.

It is ranked A for long-term debt and A-1 for short-term debt by credit rating agency S&P American Ratings.

The privatisation is a key plank of my government's micro-economic reforms," Mr Greiner said, adding that it was the country's first ever 100 per cent privatisation by flotation.

The federal government last year floated 30 per cent of Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

On July 24, GIO shares are due to be listed on the Australian Stock Exchange on August 20. At A\$2.40, a share GIO will be capitalised within the top

50 companies in Australia. Foreign investors will be allowed to take part in the flotation. All investors will be limited to a 10 per cent stake on application and an on-going shareholding of 15 per cent.

GIO was established in 1927 to provide workers' compensation and general insurance for the New South Wales government and now manages about 100,000 policies.

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June 1992

U.S. \$150,000,000
Republic New York
Corporation
Floating Rate Subordinated Capital Notes due 2009

Notice is hereby given that in respect of the Interest Period from June 23, 1992 to September 23, 1992 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 5% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, September 21, 1992 for the Class A Notes will be \$224.17 and for the Class B Notes \$224.14 per \$100,000 nominal amount.

By The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank
June 23, 1992

U.S. \$750,000,000

Midland Bank plc

(Incorporated with Limited Liability in England)

Underlaid Floating Rate Primary Capital Notes

Notice is hereby given that for the six month Interest Period from June 23, 1992 to December 23, 1992 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 5% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, December 23, 1992 will be U.S. \$104.17 per \$100,000 nominal amount.

By The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank
June 23, 1992

HMC MORTGAGE NOTES & PLC

£140,000,000

Class A

and

£27,000,000

Class B

Mortgage Backed Floating Rate Notes due September 2030

Notice is hereby given that for the interest period from June 19, 1992 to September 21, 1992 the Class A Notes and Class B Notes will carry an interest rate of 10% and 11% per annum, respectively. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, September 21, 1992 for the Class A Notes will be £2,632.21 and for the Class B Notes £2,828.14 per £100,000 nominal amount.

By The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank
June 23, 1992

'No malign effect' of stock index futures trade

By Tracy Corrigan

THERE is no evidence that trading in stock index futures increases volatility in the underlying UK stock market, according to a report commissioned by the Securities and Investments Board.

The Financial Markets Group of the London School of Economics was commissioned to examine the linkage of cash and derivatives trading in the UK equity market, after concern about the negative impact of futures trading following the 1987 stock market crash.

The report goes some way to refuting suggestions that futures trading increases volatility and undermines traditional markets.

"That the study finds no indication of such malign effects in the UK is reassuring," the SIB commented.

The report comes at a time of mounting concern about the risks inherent in derivatives trading, particularly among bank regulators.

Mr Gerald Corrigan, who heads the US-based Committee on Banking Supervision, and Mr Richard Farrant, head of banking supervision at the Bank of England, are among supervisors to have expressed concern recently.

In a speech in London in March, Sir David Walker, then chairman of the SIB, also warned of the risks inherent in derivatives trading.

"This is a market for management to watch with particular care," he said.

The SIB has invited comments on the LSE report in an effort to build a broader picture based on the views of market participants.

Meanwhile, the Group of Thirty, the Washington-based think-tank, is about to begin a wide-ranging review of the risks which have built up in the financial system as a result of the explosive growth of derivatives markets in the last decade.

Indo cement unveils \$848m acquisitions

By William Keeling in Jakarta

INDOCEMENT, Indonesia's largest quoted company, has announced conditional acquisitions totalling Rp7.777bn (\$848m).

The purchases, which are in food and property, will diversify Indo cement away from the cement sector in which it accounts for 52 per cent of national capacity.

The principal acquisition is PT Bogasari Flour Mills, an integrated flour milling company with an estimated 85 per cent market share in wheat flour and cash-flow of about Rp130m a year. The purchase cost of Rp1.17bn includes the assumption of about Rp850m of debt, a cash payment of

Rp220m and the issuance of long-term promissory notes totalling \$300m.

Indo cement will also acquire a 40 per cent stake in the Indofood Group for Rp7.777bn; the group of nine principal companies and 20 subsidiaries produces more than 140 products and is a leading producer of instant noodles.

The final acquisition is Wisma Indo cement, an 23-storey office building in central Jakarta for which the company is paying \$56m.

The reaction of brokers to the announcement was mixed. The food sector is expected to have high growth over the medium-term, but the flour industry is highly protected and may be the subject of deregulation shortly.

Although analysts were

expecting Indo cement to make large-scale acquisitions, they expressed surprise that there was no mention of likely purchases at the annual meeting held earlier this month.

A local broker noted "a lack of synergy between cement and instant noodles" but conceded that "Indo cement has gone as far as it can as a cement company and needs to diversify".

Indo cement says the purchase will be paid out of cash resources of Rp400bn and long-term borrowing of Rp1.320bn. This will give Indo cement a debt-to-equity ratio of 132 per cent and brokers say a new share issue is likely within a year.

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Tax increase cuts Macquarie profits 11%

Macquarie is 16 per cent owned by Hill Samuel Bank, the UK merchant bank which is part of the TSB group. Mr Berg said Hill Samuel was going ahead with plans to sell its stake in Macquarie Bank by December 31.

Macquarie said pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 rose 4 per cent to A\$76.39m. Tax expenses rose to A\$29.16m from A\$20.59m.

Mr David Clarke, chairman, said: "The 12 months ending March 31 1992 were difficult for

Australia and even more difficult for our banking sector.

"While the recession has affected several of the bank's businesses, it has given us the opportunity to make gains through capitalising on difficult market conditions to increase our market share," he said.

Total assets were steady at A\$2.36bn at March 31, while group shareholders' funds rose to A\$272.8m during the year from A\$236.5m.

Provisions for bad debts,

most on property loans, fell to A\$10.2m, from A\$16.2m in 1990/91.

Mr Berg said he expected moderate growth in the Australian economy in the current year, but there was unlikely to be significant growth in corporate or financial market activity.

Macquarie said 27.6 per cent of its income came from trading businesses, up 2.6 per cent from 24.6 per cent at March 31, while group shareholders' funds rose to A\$272.8m during the year from A\$236.5m.

Provisions for bad debts,

which would be an increase of around 20 per cent on 1990, and says profits for last year should emerge at more than A\$60m.

In the four months to April, YPF's share of national oil output fell to 86 per cent or 5.63m cubic metres. Two years ago, it produced 97 per cent of Argentina's oil.

Mr Estensore says new management and control systems should be implemented and operational by January 1993 and restructuring should be at least 70 to 80 per cent complete by 1998.

This, he says, should leave the ground well prepared for the first international issue of shares in YPF.

His reform plan was drawn up together with McKinsey and Arthur D Little, the US management consultants. This calls for drastic restructuring of YPF. He says: "I am downsizing the company by cutting away all the fat."

Eventually the workforce will be reduced to 12,000 from 54,000 in 1990.

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YPF's financial performance is beginning to improve. It estimates 1991 sales at \$6bn.

Its reform plan was drawn

Financial Times Annual Report Service

MoDo

1991

MoDo

MoDo is an international forest products company engaged in the production and sale of fine paper, newspaper paper, paperboard, pulp, timber products, packaging paper, and paper and plastic bags. The average number of employees in 1991 was 12,572. Of the Group's total sales of SEK 17,414 million in 1991, 84 per cent went to countries outside Sweden. Some 70 per cent of total sales went to customers in the EC area. Profits after net financial items before extraordinary items amounted to SEK 221 m, a decrease of 82 per cent on 1990.

Annual Report 1991

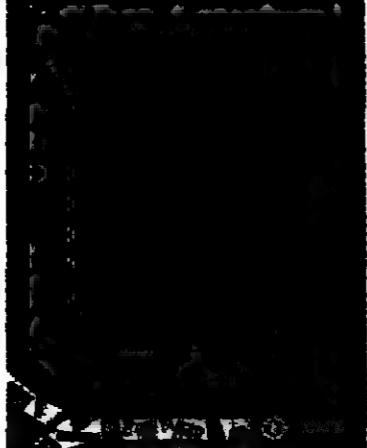
Sandoz

Sandoz is a global company based in Switzerland with nearly three-quarters of its sales in Life Sciences. In Pharmaceutical Division ranks among the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, and is a leader in immunology and endocrinology. Continuous investment in R&D has been a key to its outstanding performance. The company also has important worldwide operations in chemicals, agrochemicals, seeds, nutrition, communication chemicals and environmental engineering. Sales in 1991 were SEK 13,444 billion (+15%) and net profit SEK 1,114 billion (+15%).



Southwestern Bell Corporation

Southwestern Bell Corporation is a St. Louis, Mo., based telecommunications company with 1991 net income of \$1.2 billion, revenues of \$9.3 billion, and EPS of \$3.85. SBC provides local telephone service in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas and has one of the fastest-growing cellular operations in chemicals, agriculture, seeds, nutrition, communication chemicals and environmental engineering. Sales in 1991 were SEK 13,444 billion (+15%) and net profit SEK 1,114 billion (+15%).



Orkla A.S.

Orkla, the result of the merger between Nors Industrier and Orkla Borregaard, is one of Norway's largest listed companies. Turnover in 1991 exceeded NOK 16.1 billion, of which 26% were sold outside Norway. Operating profit in NOK 2.6 billion was in line with 1990. Profit before taxes was NOK 601 million. Activities include food processing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and materials for the consumer market. Chemical-oriented process industry and Equity investments. Orkla is Norway's largest and Scandinavia's second largest Branded goods company, primarily within food and beverages. The Process industry is strongly internationalized and comprises chemicals and chemicals-oriented wood processing. Orkla is Norway's second largest Equity investor.



British Petroleum Company Plc

The British Petroleum Company Plc. is the parent company of one of the world's largest international petroleum and petrochemical groups. Key strengths are in exploration and production, refining and marketing, and in chemicals. BP also has important interests in aviation. It supports all its businesses with high quality research and technology. About one-third of BP's fixed assets are in the USA. BP shares are quoted on stock exchanges in the UK, the USA, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, France, Germany and the Netherlands.



Televerket

The Televerket Group offers public and private networks for telephony, data communications and mobile telephones. In 1991, the Televerket Group's revenues totalled USD 5.7 billion, up 10%. Return on total capital was 9%. Televerket invested a total of USD 1.6 billion. Telephone traffic rose 6, 2%. Network performance was 98, 9%.



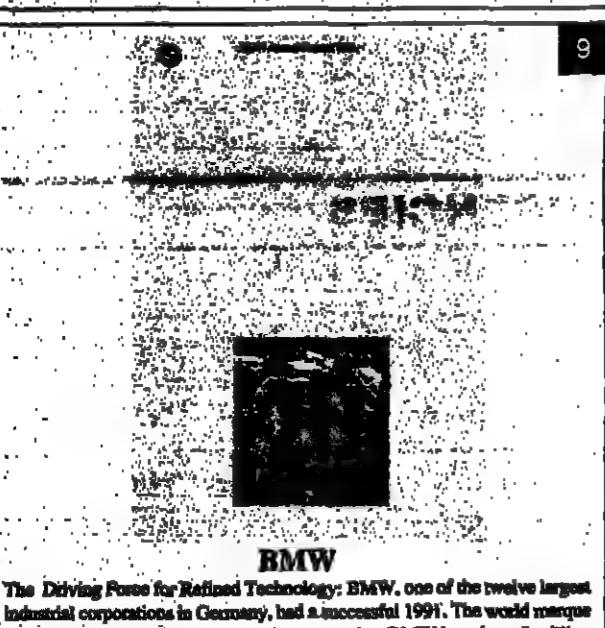
Frankfurter Hypothekenbank AG

Frankfurter Hypothekenbank, established in 1862, is one of the largest German private mortgage banks and among the most profitable. Its share capital is majority held by Deutsche Bank AG. The bank's activities are restricted by the Mortgage Bank Act to low risk business, i.e. financing real property and granting loans to the public sector. This business is funded by issuing Pfandbriefe, which are known as a top-grade investment. Pfandbriefe of Frankfurter Hypothekenbank have been rated "AAA" by Standard & Poor's.



CS Holding

1991 consolidated net profit of CS Holding, the parent of Credit Suisse, CS First Boston, Inc., Léa Holding Ltd., Electrowatt Ltd., Fides Holding, CS Life, increased to SEK 980 million, representing a return on equity of 12.4%. In 1991 all Group companies improved their performance substantially based on the Group's leading position in securities underwriting, asset management, mergers and acquisitions, derivative products, securities trading and commercial banking. Approved by Credit Suisse Member of DIFCO.



BMW

The Driving Force for Refined Technology: BMW, one of the twelve largest industrial corporations in Germany, had a successful 1991. The world market for dynamic and exclusive cars and motorcycles, BMW has about 5 million vehicles on the road in more than 100 countries. Each year BMW builds more than 500,000 vehicles in its factories in Germany. About 70,000 people research and develop, produce and guarantees BMW quality. At the start of the 1990s, the company resumed production of aircraft engines in a joint venture with Rolls-Royce.



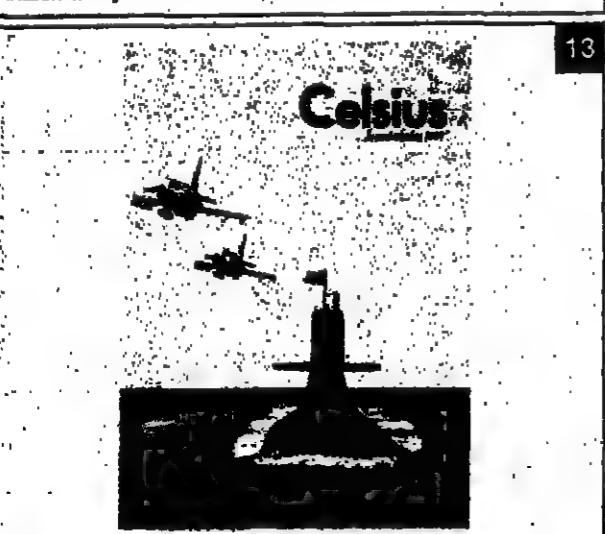
PolyGram N.V.

PolyGram N.V. - the global entertainment group - is one of the three largest recorded music producers and publishers worldwide. In 1991, PolyGram achieved record net sales of U.S. \$3.7 billion, income from operations of \$430 million and net income of \$261 million, and increased its world market share to an estimated 18.5%. Ticker symbol: PLG.



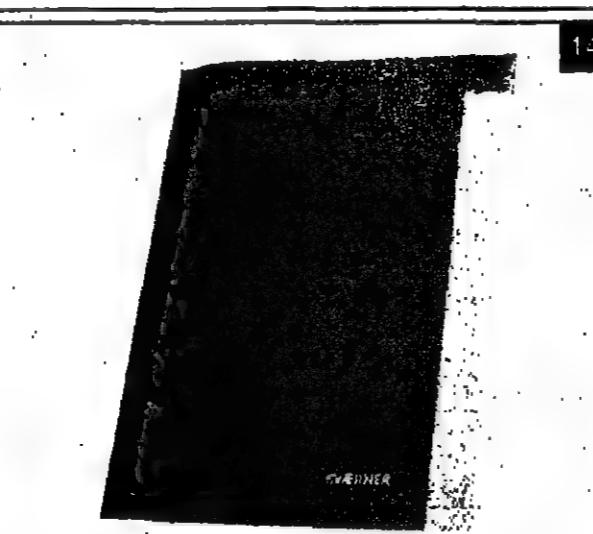
Saab-Scania

Saab-Scania's operations are carried on in the four business areas of Scania Trucks & Buses, Saab Aircraft, Saab-Scania Combitech and Saab-Scania Finance. With its own Board and company management, Saab-Scania forms an independent industrial group within Investor. Saab-Scania has 31,656 employees in Sweden and abroad. Sales in 1991 amounted to SEK 29,299 million and income to SEK 2,811 million. These figures are exclusive of Saab Automobile, which is owned equally by Saab-Scania and General Motors, but is not consolidated in Saab-Scania.



Celsius Industries

1991 was a successful year for Celsius Industries and a benchmark year in the history of the company. A number of events and decisions mark an entry into a new era. The major event of the year was the acquisition of FFV, which involved a sharp increase in Group sales and doubled the number of employees. This expansion has continued with the addition of Bofores (formerly Swedish Ordnance), which became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Celsius Group in early 1992. With the acquisition of FFV and Bofores, the Celsius Group has become Sweden's largest and leading industrial concern in the defence material sector, with substantial development resources.



Kvaerner a.s.

Kvaerner is an international company based in Norway. The group's main business areas are mechanical engineering, offshore installations, consultancy engineering, piping technology, shipbuilding and shipping. Operating revenues in 1991 totalled NOK 18,604 million. Consolidated pre-tax profit was NOK 1,103 million. Kvaerner has 18,000 employees. Kvaerner is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange and the Stockholm Stock Exchange.



CSX

CSX Corporation, with assets of \$13 billion and 1991 revenue of \$2.6 billion, is an international transportation services company with principal businesses in rail freight, ocean container shipping, intermodal carriage, inland barging, trucking, warehousing, distribution, and related services. The company also has interests in real estate and resorts. Headquarters are in Richmond, VA.

The Financial Times Annual Report Service is appearing on 23, 24, 25, 26 June 1992.

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INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

Surge of demand greets Ecu350m offering from EIB

By Tracy Corrigan

THE European Investment Bank's reopening of the fixed-rate Ecu bond market with an Ecu350m offering yesterday captured a surge of demand which took traders by surprise, but is not expected to persist.

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Apart from a small issue of floating-rate notes, the Ecu bond market has been closed since the Danish referendum rejecting the Maastricht Treaty on June 2 sent Ecu bond prices tumbling.

Although the positive result of last week's Irish referendum restored some confidence in the future of the market, dealers

said that buying interest had remained thin. Friday's rally on news of the result was used by many investors as an opportunity to sell bonds which they have been trying to offload.

The reopening is unlikely to be followed by many more deals, as the EIB is unusual in having a natural need for Ecu. The deal will be used to finance a number of Ecu loans due to be disbursed. The bank was pleased to have an opportunity to reopen the market, an official said.

The sell-out of the EIB offering represents something of a special case. A substantial portion of the paper was sold to European central banks, some of which may have been politically motivated to support the Ecu bond market. A large por-

tion of paper was also placed in Italy, where the EIB is exempt from withholding tax for domestic investors.

The deal also met demand from fund managers due to the attractive pricing of the 10-year bonds at a yield spread of about 12 basis points above the comparable French government OAT issue, about six basis points more than the bank had to pay prior to the Danish referendum. At this level, the bonds yield just two basis points less than the theoretical 10-year Ecu bond yield, based on the basket value of the Ecu.

The deal closed at 99.25 bid, above its fixed-reoffer level of 99.17.

• Eurodollar bonds issued by Statoil Banks, the central bank of Czechoslovakia, yesterday

stabilised at a yield spread of around 350 basis points over US Treasury bonds, writes Simon London.

The \$200m deal was launched last October at a spread of 300 basis point over Treasuries and narrowed to 280 basis points earlier this year.

However, the bonds have underperformed since elections strengthened the position of Slovakian nationalists pressuring for independence. Nomura International, which lead-managed the issue, yesterday reported "good two-way trading" in the bonds at the new yield spread.

The covenants of the bond make it an event of default if Statoil Banks ceases to be the central bank of either the Czech or Slovak republics. In this case, bondholders would be able to put bonds back to the issuer at par.

Five NHL bonds marked down over UK property fears

By Simon London

NATIONAL Home Loans (NHL), the UK centralised mortgage lender which completed a debt restructuring package with banks earlier this month, has had five mortgage-backed bond issues downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, the US rating agency.

The move surprised many market participants because there has been no serious deterioration in the condition of the UK housing market this year.

Moody's said that the downgradings reflected both the performance of the mortgage pools underlying the bonds and "structural and legal aspects" of the issues.

The agency was concerned about the impact of repossessions, especially where repossessed properties are then resold at a loss.

The bonds were issued by

"We are disappointed by these ratings and do not believe the issues highlighted by Moody's are significant," he said.

Standard & Poor's, the other big US rating agency, maintains three of the five bond issues at a higher credit rating than Moody's. It rated mortgage-backed bonds issued by CMS No 3 some four notches higher than Moody's.

"One of the rating agencies has to be wrong," commented one banker yesterday. "There is obviously a fundamental disagreement about the level of credit protection available to bondholders."

Dealers said that the downgradings had little impact on bond prices in the secondary market. NHL has bought back bonds trading below par, halving the impact of any selling.

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The bonds were issued by

special purpose companies and formerly assigned the top triple-A credit rating by Moody's on the basis of subordinated loans provided by NHL itself.

Mr Nigel Terrington, NHL treasurer, said that the legal issues were "technical".

Trading in LDC loans regains composure

By Simon London

TRADE in loans to less-developed countries regained some composure yesterday following heavy price falls and hectic dealing activity last week.

The sell-off was sparked by increasing tension surrounding corruption allegations levelled against Brazilian President Collor de Mello. The uncertainty was seen as reducing the chances that Brazil will reach a Brady-style debt restructuring agreement with creditors.

Yesterday, the price of Brazilian benchmark commercial bank debt stabilised at around 2½-3 per cent of face value, from an issue price of 5.

having plunged from around 40 per cent to 30 per cent last week.

Nervousness spread to most areas of the LDC debt market as investors withdrew, although there was no change in the economic fundamentals of most countries.

The slide in the cash market was amplified in the price of warrants on LDC debt recently issued by several investment banks.

For example, warrants issued by Paribas Capital Markets - which offer holders the right to buy Brazilian DFA debt at 40 per cent of face value - were yesterday quoted at 2½-3 per cent of face value, from an issue price of 5.

HKFE plans Hang Seng Index launch

THE Hong Kong Futures Exchange hopes to launch Hang Seng Index options later this year or early in 1993, Reuter reports from Hong Kong.

A decision will be taken in October, according to Mr Gary Knight, the exchange's chief executive.

He said a decision on whether to introduce electronic matching and to start new currency and interest rate contracts would follow the options move.

He warned against expecting heavy turnover immediately. "When we launch options we will not see the big volumes on day one," he said.

Mr Knight said options trading would continue for some time under the open outcry system used for existing contracts.

The exchange was studying the possibility of introducing electronic matching, although he stressed that a decision was not imminent.

"The electronic dealing system decision is in progress right now," he said.

If electronic trading went ahead, new interest and currency products could follow.

"Many of these issues are

due to be redeemed in 1994, so the Treasury is trying to smooth the pattern of redemption," said one economist.

Dealers said the market reacted rapidly to the news initially due to concern that the exchange would mean an increase in supply at the longer end of the market. However, foreign buying helped to lift the market, and the March September futures contract settled at 107.22, up two basis points on the day.

• The statement from the Finance Ministry on Friday took the French bond market by surprise and led to a fall in prices before the weekend and yesterday morning.

The French Treasury plans to exchange FF140bn of existing state bond issues for the newer Obligations Assimilées du Trésor (OATs) in order to improve the liquidity and extend the maturity of the government's debt.

With effect from today, the Treasury will offer to exchange 45 old stocks, worth about FF140bn altogether, for newer issues. The old bonds include stocks issued by Caisse Nationale des Banques, Caisse Nationale de l'Industrie and the Fonds Spécial des Grandes Travaux.

In the credit markets, the Federal Reserve completed a round of three-day system

slipped from 101% to 101½ to yield 9.28 per cent. The gilt futures contract ended the day slightly higher at 97.22, compared with its opening of 97.19, in healthy trading volume.

The release of better-than-expected trade data for May led to a slight bounce in gilt prices in the morning but the effect was short-lived as funding worries continued to dominate the market. Tomorrow the Bank of England will auction £2.75bn of the 9 per cent Treasury stock due 2012, its largest to date.

• US Treasury prices moved in a tight trading range yesterday as investors held their fire ahead of this week's auctions.

By late afternoon, the benchmark 30-year government bond was down ½ at 101½, yielding 7.82 per cent, while at the short end of the market the two-year note was unchanged at 100%, yielding 4.968 per cent. Trading volume was reported to be extremely light.

The lack of new economic statistics denied the market a new direction, and the subdued nature of business was exaggerated by concern among participants about taking large positions before today's \$16bn sale of two-year notes and tomorrow's \$10.25bn sale of five-year notes.

In the credit markets, the Federal Reserve completed a round of three-day system

repurchase agreements aimed at lowering the Fed funds rate, which was trading slightly above its 3% per cent target at 3½ per cent.

The rate on three-month certificates of deposit, which has fallen in recent weeks, was quoted at 4.50 to 4.55 per cent yesterday, compared with 4.45 per cent on Friday.

The sharp drop in the Tokyo

equity market contributed to speculation that the Bank of Japan would be forced to lower short-term interest rates to help the stock market and

boost the economy, dealers said. The Nikkei index closed 556.65 points lower at 15,281.22, its lowest level since 1986.

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The yield on the benchmark

No 120 issue traded in a range of 5.255 to 5.375 per cent, but ended the day unchanged at 5.36 per cent. The September futures contract moved in a range of 102.42 to 102.65, ending the day at 102.60.

• The yield on the benchmark

US Treasury note fell 10/16 to 101-07 +0.008

Yield: Local market standard

London close: New York close

* Gross annual yield (including withholding tax at 12.5 per cent by non-residents).

Price: US, UK in 30ths, others in decimal

Technicals: Data/ATLAS Price Sources

French market recovers from swap setback

By Sara Webb in London and Patrick Harwood in New York

THE French government bond market rallied yesterday, recovering some of the losses which were made in the wake of Friday's surprise announcement that the Treasury plans to exchange some of the old illiquid bond issues for its new ones.

Dealers said the market reacted rapidly to the news initially due to concern that the exchange would mean an increase in supply at the longer end of the market.

The cash market ended lower across the range of maturities. The benchmark 11% per cent gilt due 2003/07 fell from its opening of 116½ to trade at 115½ by late afternoon, yielding 9.34 per cent, while the 10 per cent gilt due 1994

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LIFTE EQUITY OPTIONS

By Simon London

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RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

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INVESTMENT

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PETROLEUM

POWER

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORTATION

WIRELESS

COMPANY NEWS: UK

Hays in £38m French acquisition

By Richard Gourlay

HAYS, the business services group, yesterday announced a long sought move into Europe through the acquisition of a French food and drink distribution company financed by a £34.3m placement of shares.

The company is paying £37.5m for Groupe FRIL, a private distributor of drinks and chilled foods for customers that include Carrefour, Yoplait and Moët Hennessy. Hays could pay an additional £15m over three years, depending on FRIL's profits.

Mr Ronnie Frost, chairman and chief executive, said Hays had been wanting to expand in Europe for 18 months and that the FRIL acquisition would be followed by one in the commercial services area in France or Germany.

After yesterday's placing, the group's balance sheet was in good shape to make further acquisitions without issuing any more new paper.

Gearing had fallen from 30 per cent to 26 per cent on the net debt of £38m. "There are a lot of good acquisition targets out there in Europe and England," Mr Frost said. "I am in an



Ronnie Frost - another acquisition in the pipeline

acquisitive mood."

He said FRIL would enhance the company's earnings, previously forecast at 12.5p in 1992-93, to about 12.6p. The acquisition would deliver earnings equivalent to 1.6p for each of the 18m new Hays shares being issued.

FRIL had sales of FF450 (£45m) in the year to Septem-

ber 1991 from its three trading groups - Logistique Barre, Transports Barre and TAC Developpement. It made operating profits of FF28m before interest, tax and start up losses on new contracts.

Mr Frost said there continued to be no evidence of economic recovery in the UK. The personnel division - the third business area which supplies specialised people - remained flat. When the recession came to an end, however, it would recover very quickly and about 70 per cent of its billings would go straight to the bottom line, he said.

Schroders underwrote and Rowes & Pitman placed the shares yesterday morning at 12.5p with a range of institutions. Hays share price closed down 3p at 12.7p.

The profits warning comes less than a year after the then chairman Mr Arun Shah said the board was optimistic that performance for the current year would reflect a marked improvement on the previous year.

Mr Shah, who is now deputy chairman, was succeeded as chairman by Mr Siles Chau in March. Mr Chau has decided to bring forward the reorganisation resulting in big exceptional charges.

The group is to concentrate on its brand name, Pepe, instead of spreading its resources on other names such as BSCO, Hardcore and Bu-

Pepe warns of losses and passed dividend

By Roland Rudd

PEPE GROUP, the USM-quoted jeans designer and distributor, will make a small loss after tax for the year to March because of rationalisation of its international operations.

It will also pass its final dividend for the first time since it came to the market in 1985.

Its shares yesterday fell 30p to close at 42p.

The profits warning comes

Storehouse chief turns his attention on Mothercare

By John Thornhill

MR DAVID DWORKIN, the chief executive designate at Storehouse, is already going through the retailing conglomerate like a dose of salts.

Yesterday, the company announced that Mr Derek Lavelock was resigning as chief executive of Mothercare to be replaced by Ms Ann Iverson, who was appointed last month to the number two slot at the childrenswear chain. Further management changes at Mothercare are expected shortly.

Storehouse also announced that Ms Sheila Forbes' job as group personnel director had been made redundant following a head office reorganisation.

This slimming-down exercise will see the 40-man head office cut by half and symbolically relocated within the B&S building, where Mr Dworkin has ruled the roost for the past three years.

The company stressed that the moves were no reflection on Mothercare's current trading position. Sales increases are said to be running in the "double-digits".



Ann Iverson: moving up to top slot at Mothercare

The changes at Mothercare follow a similar restructuring exercise at Habitat last month which led to the departure of Mr Michael Harvey as chairman and chief executive.

Mr Dworkin has already announced that he wants Mothercare's management team to work more closely with that of B&S to share sourcing expertise and increase

buying muscle. The appointment of Ms Iverson looks an ideal means of achieving the goal. She was formerly stores director at B&S and previously worked with Mr Dworkin at Bonwit Teller, the US fashion chain.

Mr Dworkin officially succeeds Mr Michael Julian as chief executive after the company's annual meeting next month.

Bonus boost for Boots' chief

By John Thornhill

SIR JAMES Blyth, chief executive of Boots, the retailing and pharmaceutical group, saw his pay increase by two-thirds last year with the benefit of a hefty bonus. He will, however, only receive the full extra payment if the company outperforms its competitors over the next four years.

Sir James' basic pay increased 14 per cent to £385,000 but he received a further £186,000 bonus taking his total to £571,000. Sir James' salary in the previous year included a £20,000 bonus.

Boots' other executive directors also received generous bonuses in 1991-92 sharing £90,000 between them compared with £54,000 the year before.

The company's annual report and accounts, released yesterday, revealed details of a complicated long-term bonus scheme for executive directors which came into effect from April 1 1991 with the intention of "locking in" valuable executives. Bonus payments under this scheme depend on the company's dividend and share price performance over the next four years when set against 10 competitors in the retailing and pharmaceutical fields.

Part of the bonus payments

last year were taken in the form of provisions anticipating the future performance of the group over the four-year period. Should the company not match these expectations, the directors will not receive their full bonus payments.

The executive directors also benefit from a one-year bonus scheme, based on performance against budget targets. This has now been scaled down to match that operating for all senior managers.

In the year to March 31, Boots' pre-tax profits rose 7 per cent to £74.2m. Earnings per share climbed 9 per cent to 26.4p. Boots' staff received a 9 per cent pay increase last year.

BM withdraws from Thwaites purchase

By Andrew Becker

NEGOTIATIONS on the possible sale of Thwaites, the site dumper manufacturer, are to continue following the withdrawal yesterday of a proposed purchase by BM Group, the acquisitive construction equipment manufacturer.

It is thought that BM would have had to pay £10m-£12m for Thwaites, which would have brought BM some new products and an efficient factory at Leamington, recently reorganised.

Closely observers of the situation say BM's withdrawal was a disappointment but not a big surprise, once the referral was announced. An inquiry would have taken some months, and an eventual defeat for BM would have been embarrassing.

However, it did not wish to "devote the considerable management time or incur the excessive cost in presenting the case to the MMC for such a small potential acqui-

sition."

Consequently, BM has "ceased" discussions with privately-held Thwaites, which announced in February that it had hired Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, in connection with a possible sale.

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However, there are other "iron in the fire," according to a source close to the discussions. The BM approach was no further advanced than those by other compa-

nies, and the lifting of the uncertainty caused by the referral could bring other negotiations to a head.

Thwaites' core site dumper business has been badly hit by the construction industry recession, and depends primarily on the UK market. But its manufacturing facilities make it an attractive acquisition candidate for an Asian equipment producer seeking a European production base - not necessarily for site dumpers.

A purchase by a Korean producer remains a possibility, but is not expected to happen quickly - Asian purchasers are traditionally slow to reach a decision.

Additionally, the worldwide recession in the construction industry is only now beginning to lift, and conditions are hardly ideal for selling equipment manufacturers. Thwaites has stressed from the outset that it will remain independent if acceptable terms cannot be negotiated.

Crown Communications losses deepen

By Angus Foster

CROWN COMMUNICATIONS, the troubled commercial radio group which owns LBC, has announced that losses are continuing to mount and the company is now seeking to eliminate its problem areas.

Crown reported pre-tax losses of £5.58m in the six months to March 31. This compared to losses of £4.88m at the interim stage last time, and is lower than £5.78m in the year to last September.

Crown said it is looking for a partner for its stake in RFM, the French radio network. Crown described France as a critical problem. It said RFM's revenue growth had been below expectations and recent

audience surveys have shown no improvement.

Crown also admitted publicly yesterday for the first time that a preliminary agreement for the sale of three quarters of its 40 per cent stake in Independent Radio News or the Press Association.

The company added that discussions on IRN's future are continuing. It is believed however that significant commercial radio groups want to pay a fixed fee for a national news service which could be provided by either Crown, Independent Television News or the Press Association.

LBC Radio reduced its operating losses from £1.8m to £300,000, helped by increased advertising revenue. The other

main UK subsidiaries, Business Communications and Independent Radio Sales, were also loss-making.

There were exceptional losses of £1.6m (£393,000) on the disposal of unspecified investments and terminated contracts.

Losses per share totalled 8.3p (7.8p) and again no dividend is being paid.

The after-tax loss for the period of £4.88m will wipe out the proceeds of last October's £4.5m rights issue.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Item	£m	3.35	July 25	3.3	5	4.8
Campbell & Armstrong	£m	0.5	Sept 1	1	2	2
Foster's Kinsale	£m	0.5	Oct 1	0.5	1	2.5
Hardy Oil & Gas	£m	1				
Harris (Philips)	£m	4.25	Sept 7	5.75	0.25	6.75
Heavifreeze Brewery	£m	0.6	Aug 3	0.6	3.05	
Investment Co	£m	1		0.775	1.375	1.15
Ivory & Stans	£m	4.5	Sept 2	4.5	5.75	5.75
Polar S	£m	2	Aug 14	2	4.5	
TGI	£m	1	Aug 28	nil	1	2.2

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. *On increased capital. **USM stock.

Standard Chartered

£300,000,000
Undated Primary Capital Floating Rate Notes
of which £150,000,000
comprises the Initial Tranche

In accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from 23rd June, 1992 to 23rd December, 1992 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 4.0625% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 23rd December, 1992 will be US\$206.51 per US\$10,000 Notes and US\$15.162.76 per US\$250,000 Note.

The interest payment date will be 22nd September, 1992. Coupon No. 29 will therefore be payable on 22nd September, 1992 at £1,302.25 per coupon from Notes of £50,000 nominal and £130.23 per coupon from Notes of £5,000 nominal.

J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited
Agent Bank

Financial Highlights	
Year ended 31st March	1992 £'000
Rental Income	70,691
Profit before tax	33,910
Profit after tax	24,699
Total dividend per share	10.0p
Property assets	£911 million
Shareholders' funds	£99 million

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COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Ban on industrial fishing called for

By David Blackwell

INDUSTRIAL FISHING should be banned in the North Sea, according to Greenpeace, the UK environmental pressure group. A report published today suggests that industrial fishing - which takes fish for uses other than human consumption - is responsible for falling fish stocks. The fish are processed into fish meal and fish oil for such industries as pig and poultry feed, paint, and shoe polish.

Industrial fishing, which takes up to 50 per cent of the North Sea catch, targets small species such as sandeels, which provide food for bigger fish, sea birds and marine mammals. Greenpeace believes the practice is destructive and wasteful, and deserves regulation of the European Community fleet as inadequate.

Ms Mary Munson, the organisation's fisheries campaigner, believes the UK presidency of the community will give the UK "a unique opportunity to influence the EC and stop the pillage of our seas". As well as

a ban on industrial fishing, Greenpeace is calling for environmental effects to be considered in every EC fisheries decision and for measures to end the catching and discarding of non-target species.

Greenpeace points out that improved technology has increased the efficiency of the total fishing industry. "As fishermen have increased their abilities to catch the few remaining fish, stock after stock of commercial fish has significantly declined."

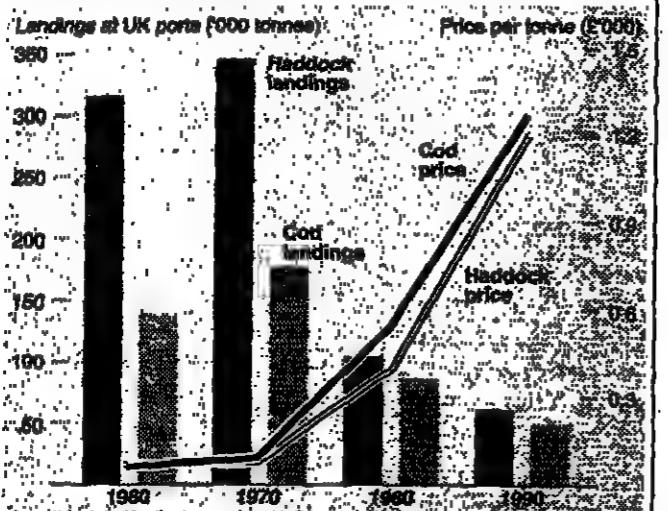
British landings of cod, for example, have decreased from 380,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes since the 1970s.

The report admits that it is unlikely that over-fishing will lead to the extinction of any species as fishermen rarely find it worthwhile to continue when a stock is severely depleted.

"However, the loss of such a huge proportion of fish populations is alarming in itself," says the report.

Net Losses, Gross Destruction, European Fisheries in Crisis. Greenpeace UK, Canonbury Villas, Islington, London N1 2PN.

Landings at UK ports (1000 tonnes)



Malaysian natural rubber output continues to fall

By Kieran Cooke in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA'S production of natural rubber fell by 1 per cent to 381,278 tonnes in the first quarter of this year, according to the government statistics department. The fall is part of the continuing trend in Malaysian rubber production.

Last year, production fell by 3 per cent to 1.35m tonnes as growers, frustrated by a prolonged period of low prices, switched to more profitable crops such as palm oil. There are also serious labour short-

ages on many plantations.

Traders say there are now serious doubts that the government-projected production figure for this year of 1.3m tonnes can be met.

In the first quarter of this year, Malaysian rubber exports totalled 551,165 tonnes - an 11 per cent drop on the same period last year.

• Malaysian officials expect cacao production to fall 20 per cent to a five-year low of 184,000 tonnes this year as a prolonged price slump forces some growers to abandon the crop, reports Reuter from Kuala Lumpur.

This year is turning out to be an especially good one for strawberries. The sunny weather through most of May added sweetness to the growing berries and the rains at the end of the month filled them out. The result is a main UK crop that is not only earlier than usual but is of exceptional quality, as anyone who has sampled it (as I have, several times) can verify.

The introduction a few years ago of a Dutch-bred variety, Elsanta, is also partly responsible for the good fruit. It combines good taste with good appearance and a shelf life that gives the retailer three days to sell in the knowledge that the fruit will still be good to eat at least four days after picking. Needless to say it earns a premium price over other types and has now been widely adopted in the UK as the main dessert variety.

A previous market leader, Cambridge Favourite, has been relegated to parts of the picking season, where the enthusiastic but amateur expertise of the pickers may be lower and it is perceived that there is a need for a tougher variety. Cambridge Favourite is still, however, a major variety, with a high proportion of those grown going for processing into jam, yoghurt, confectionery and so on.

But this is just the main crop harvested during mid-summer. As commissioners will be aware English strawberries are now available from April until November. And the technology

that has been imported from all over the world in order to achieve such a long season in a relatively hostile climate is quite incredible.

Some growers with a selection of land on which to grow strawberries will choose warm, south-facing slopes, combined perhaps with one of the other methods mentioned for their early crop, and land kept cool by sea for those they wish to market later.

Most sophisticated of all is the system of lifting growing strawberry plants from the land at a crucial stage in their development and putting them into cold storage to be held for a period in a state of suspended animation. They are then brought out as required for the marketing programme and replanted. Eight weeks later they produce a crop.

All these techniques, or variations of them are used in places like Israel, California and Spain, where long hot summers make strawberry plants fruit for months and enable growers to produce enormous yields unheard of in the UK. But because they grow so fast and are required to have an even greater travelling and shelf-life in order to reach UK shores, the quality of the fruit produced in those countries is almost universally inferior to the British product.

MARKET REPORT

Some stability returned to ZINC after last week's sharp price declines on the LME. The cash premium over three-month metal narrowed to \$8.50 a tonne. This helped three-month metal to hold above \$1,200, although the likelihood of further inventory increases in the short term will keep the market under downward pressure, with \$1,180 the objective. ALUMINUM continued to weaken, with fund selling and liquidation pushing prices to a 4½-month low of \$1,259 a tonne during the day. Support was seen around the lows, but a rise in [PA] production rates for May and expectations of stock increases

London Markets

SPOT MARKETS

Commodity	Close	Previous	High/Low
Crude oil (per barrel FOIS)	+ or -		
Diesel	\$16.65-\$17.25	-2.25	
Stent Blend (dosed)	\$20.55-\$10.00	-0.25	
Stent Blend (Avg)	\$20.05-\$10.00	-0.25	
W.T.I. (1 pt cut)	\$20.05-\$10.00	-0.25	

Oil products

(WWTI prompt delivery per tonne C\$) + or -

Premium Gasoline

Gas Oil

Heavy Fuel Oil

Naphtha

Petroleum Asphalt Estimates

Other

Gold (per troy oz)

Silver (per troy oz)

Platinum (per troy oz)

Palladium (per troy oz)

Copper (US Producer)

Lead (US Producer)

Tin (Kuala Lumpur market)

Tin (New York)

Zinc (US Prime Western)

Cattle (live weight)

Sheep (live weight)

Pigs (live weight)

London daily sugar (raw)

London daily sugar (white)

Tale and lyle export prices

Turnover 10286 (14251)

CAFE CLO - ICE

Crude oil - ICE

Rubber (Lb)

Rubber (Avg)

Rubber (Lb, RSS No 1 Jul)

Coconut oil (Philippines)

Palm Oil (Malaysia)

Copra (Philippines)

Soyabean oil (US)

Canola oil (Canada)

Wool tops (Btu/ Super)

TEA

There was a strong and more widespread demand this week, reports the Tea Brokers' Association. Landed all bright liquor East African tea improved competition at higher prices.

The better medium leaf were also well supported and prices were often reported as high as £1,000 per tonne in the oil region with price levels about steady. Few lots from Mauritius were mostly easier while sold while secondary grades were neglected. The highest price realised this week was 200g for a Keppa pd. Quotations 1kg medium 100g low medium 80g.

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FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

See page 102 for full list of funds

Int. Date	Int. Price	Int. Yield %	Int. Total
12/6/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
13/6/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
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1/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
2/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
3/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
4/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
5/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
6/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
7/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
8/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
9/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.00
10/11/92	100.00	0.00	100.

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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Weakness in yen and dollar

THE DOLLAR strengthened against the yen but weakened against European currencies yesterday, writes Peter Chertkov.

Across most markets, however, trading was thin, with dealers already influenced by the G7 meeting in two weeks' time.

Record low figures for Japanese money supply growth and a drop in the Nikkei stock market index below the 16,000 level for the first time since 1986 left the yen languishing. The dollar ended Tokyo trading on Monday at 127.47, up from the Y127.00 it reached late on Friday in New York.

Peter Chertkov of UBS in London said the Japanese government would do what was necessary to strengthen the stock market, which meant a fiscal stimulus package around the time of the G7 meeting. In the meantime, he said, the Japanese authorities would want to keep the yen strong against the dollar to allow a cut in the official discount rate (ODR) later on.

"The interesting thing is that today the Bank of Japan's money market actions suggest a slight tightening," said Gerard Lyons of DKB International in London. "That suggests that the authorities are

not keen to relax monetary policy ahead of the G7 meeting."

In European trading the yen weakened further, moving through the Y81.00 level against the D-Mark. It closed at around Y81.10, compared with Y80.22 on Friday.

Against European currencies, the dollar continued its weakness of recent days. It opened at DM1.575, down from Friday's DM1.575, then moved to DM1.5650 by the London close. Technically minded traders were testing the DM1.56 level, said UBS's Paul Chertkov, with the thought of a possible move back to DM1.5650, seen earlier in the year. In New York the dollar finished at the DM1.5650 London close.

Among EMS currencies, there was little change. The D-Mark continued to edge down in the wake of Irish voters' endorsement of the Maastricht treaty, but still retained

much of the strength acquired after Denmark's "no" vote.

The lira, which had to be defended by the Bank of Italy in the middle of last week, slipped to DM75.28 from Friday's DM75.30. As some commercial banks raised lending rates, the lira escaped from the bottom of the EMS by the close, to be replaced by sterlin. The Portuguese escudo, at the top, was 5.81 per cent above its central sterling rate. The pound was steady at DM2.9152.

South Africa's financial rand fell sharply, as the African National Congress called an emergency meeting for today to discuss whether to pull out of constitutional talks. The financial rand closed 6.7 per cent down at R3.84 to the dollar, from a Friday close of R3.80. The discount to the commercial rand widened to 27 per cent, the highest this year.

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4:00 pm prices June 22

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES

AMERICA

US recovery spreads gloom

Wall Street

ALTHOUGH US share prices recovered from heavy early losses yesterday, market sentiment remained depressed amid deepening gloom about the US economic recovery and its effect on corporate earnings, writes *Patrick Harverson* in New York.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was finally off 4.55 at 3,280.80, a substantial rally from early afternoon when it had been down 30 points down.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost a net 0.26 at 403.41, the American SE composite shed 3.77 to 376.62 and the Nasdaq composite gave up 4.47 at 549.73. Turnover on the New York SE was 165m shares.

The market has fallen in four out of the last five trading days (the only exception being Friday when options-related buying lifted the Dow 11 points), and analysts have interpreted the declines as part of a concerted sell-off by investors - a substantial correction of the recent bull phase.

Some say that an increasing number of investors now believe equities are overvalued and, troubled by the feebleness of the economic recovery, find more reasons to sell stocks than to buy them.

Merck bucked the trend, rising 2.2% to \$50.40 in heavy trading on news that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had approved the company's Proscar drug, used in the treatment of enlarged prostate glands.

Another rare gain was recorded by Time Warner.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG fell following the ANC's decision to withdraw from negotiations on power-sharing with the government. But the weakness of the financial rand, which lost 7.5 per cent earlier in the session before recovering slightly, helped lift those companies with offshore assets. The overall index lost 41 to 3,639 and industrials were down 51 at 4,471. The gold index shed 17 to 1,141. Minoro gained 25 cents to R47.25 and Lourho added 15 cents to R5.55. De Beers shed R1 to R57.50.

Tokyo's problems weigh on bourses

MARKETS IN PERSPECTIVE

	% change in local currency 1				% change in local currency 1				% change in local currency 1			
	1 Week	4 Weeks	1 Year	Start of 1992	Start of 1991	Start of 1990	Start of 1989	Start of 1988	Start of 1987	Start of 1986	Start of 1985	Start of 1984
Austria	-2.00	-0.65	-19.46	+7.08	+3.75	+3.11						
Belgium	-1.53	-2.91	-2.55	+1.68	-10.78	-12.15						
Denmark	-2.88	-5.91	-26.26	-10.78	-12.15	-12.70						
Finland	-0.97	-8.07	-25.88	+0.95	-2.04	-2.64						
France	-0.95	-6.94	-8.22	+8.97	+7.47	+6.81						
Germany	-0.31	-2.05	-0.07	+10.17	+7.11	+6.44						
Ireland	+0.61	-3.46	-3.98	-2.59	-4.47	-5.07						
Italy	-0.88	-5.46	-20.13	-4.84	-7.25	-7.81						
Netherlands	-2.75	-1.37	+4.57	+8.85	+5.84	+5.19						
Norway	-4.78	-7.79	-19.45	-1.49	-0.57	-1.26						
Spain	+0.47	-4.11	-8.29	+2.19	+1.65	+0.21	-0.41					
Sweden	-1.72	-6.38	-11.43	-8.14	+6.48	+5.81						
Switzerland	-0.68	-2.00	+9.74	+12.89	+8.60	+7.82						
UK	-0.82	-6.23	+4.25	+4.65	+4.65	+4.01						
EUROPE	-0.93	-3.34	+1.17	+5.77	+4.32	+3.88						
Australia	-1.23	-3.05	+8.23	-1.72	-1.83	-2.54						
Hong Kong	-0.25	+0.00	+61.42	+37.79	+39.44	+38.59						
Japan	-4.75	-7.84	-31.39	-28.95	-27.85	-28.10						
Malaysia	+0.45	+1.05	-8.82	+3.50	+12.62	+11.93						
New Zealand	-0.18	-1.94	+1.63	-1.49	-0.11	-0.70						
Singapore	-1.98	+3.02	+2.67	+1.90	+2.37	+1.74						
Canada	-2.61	-1.84	-7.53	-5.45	-8.16	-8.73						
USA	-1.43	-2.56	+8.37	-3.16	-2.57	-3.16						
Mexico	-8.18	-10.42	+48.21	+6.70	+4.69	+3.94						
South Africa	-0.84	-0.15	+11.02	+7.23	-4.80	-5.39						
WORLD INDEX	-3.14	-4.30	-6.16	-7.57	-8.12	-8.12						

1 Based on June 19th 1991. Copyright, The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co., and County NatWest Securities

EUROPE

Weakness abroad outweighs a little Irish comfort

AFTER firming on Friday following the Irish 'yes' vote on the Maastricht treaty, markets weakened yesterday after Tokyo's steep overnight decline, writes *Our Markets Staff*.

The Irish referendum result had given traders a brief moment of comfort following the Danish 'no' earlier in the month which seemed to have effectively derailed hopes for closer economic union.

There was general agreement among analysts yesterday that whatever muted euphoria had been generated by the Irish referendum result had been dissipated by the start of trading.

Mr Sushil Wadhwanji of Goldman Sachs said he did not expect European bourses to move decisively higher until the French referendum on Maastricht had been held. He also pointed out that there was uncertainty over Germany's attitude towards Maastricht, with the possibility that the German government might seek to make amendments.

PARIS erased most of Friday's gains as a domestic newspaper poll showed that only 23

FT-SE Eurotrack 100 - Jun 22									
Hourly changes									
Open	10.30am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	close		
1150.95	1151.31	1151.05	1150.88	1150.85	1150.92	1150.79	1149.77		
Day's High	1151.48								
Day's Low	1149.50								
Days value	100.00/100.00								

per cent of investors were bullish about the stock market.

Weakness in the Matif, as arbitrageurs covered their positions following the government's FFr140m bond swap plan announced on Friday, also weighed on share prices.

The CAC 40 index dropped 28.15 or 1.5 per cent to 1,858.77 in turnover of FF12.4bn, while around FF14.2bn was generated by a block trade in BSN and FF12.5bn in Lyonnaise des Eaux.

Dealers said that the block trades were likely to have been executed by an insurance company in order to realise a profit in one fund, and transfer the stock to another fund.

Michelin dropped FF1.50 to FF19.50 on rumours, denied by the company, that VW shares had already pro-

duced a 20 per cent gain relative to the DAX index since the start of 1992. He added that VW's marketing costs were shooting up, and that Paribas saw earnings on a declining trend over the next two years.

MILAN rose on dealers' hopes that a government would be formed this week. However, a further rise in interest rates, reflecting the bank's weakness, acted as a brake on the market. The Comit index rose 4.60 to 474.57 in turnover estimated at between L80bn/L90bn after L79.50.

Flat rose L37 or 2.6 per cent to L54.42 as professionals and institutions bought the stock in anticipation of a stock market rally when the new government is announced. Down, Fl1.10 to Fl 37.20, on nervousness that the transatlantic price war may affect earnings. Profit-taking in derivatives contracts, to just

Volkswagen's drive for volume in the European mass car market, reflected in a 17.5 per cent market share in the first five months of 1992, was marked by a small rise in just

DM1.00 higher at DM40.70.

Reinhard Fischer, head of European research at Paribas Capital Markets, observed that

VW shares had already pro-

duced a 20 per cent gain relative to the DAX index since the start of 1992. He added that VW's marketing costs were shooting up, and that Paribas saw earnings on a declining trend over the next two years.

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DANISCO fell in line with other markets, the general index losing 3.08 to 246.41.

TRADING saw a rise of 1.54 to 1,166.30.

MADRID fell in line with other markets, the general index losing 2.25 lower at 1,770.54 after a 1.36 decline to 1,742.12 in the FAZ of misfortune and share prices moved little in the post-bourse. Turnover fell from DM13.9m, inflated by the expiry of derivatives contracts, to just

DM4.4m.

Stocks recovered some early

losses after the group said that its HIV/AIDS drug had received FDA approval for use in combination with Wellcome's Retrovir. The certificates, which headed the active list, ended SF7.330 easier at SF7.330 after SF7.330.

AMSTERDAM declined in sluggish trade, the CBS Index losing 0.30 to 125.20 in turnover of some Fl 400m.

Volman fell Fl 3.40 or 12.6 per cent to Fl 23.50 with just 18,000 shares traded: the software group reported disappointing profit figures after the close on Friday. KLM's weakness continued, down Fl 1.10 to Fl 37.20,

on nervousness that the transatlantic price war may affect earnings. Profit-taking in derivatives contracts, to just

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INDUSTRIAL BANK OF KOREA to make an initial public offering.

HONG KONG climbed, although afternoon profit-taking trimmed early gains. The Hang Seng index closed 32.34 higher at 5,819.